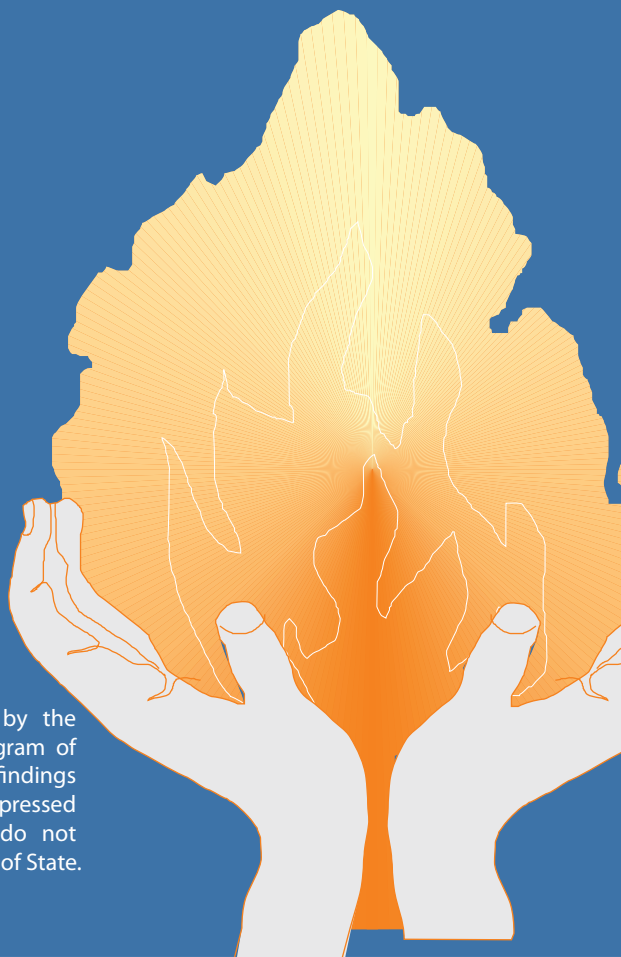
QENDRA PSIKO-SOCIALE "VATRA"

REPORT

Activities Carried Out by "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre During 2011-2013



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REPORT

Activities Carried Out by "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre During 2011-2013

Report 2011-2013

This report was prepared by:
Brikena Puka Executive Director
Adena Dervishaj Program Coordinator
Entela Avdulaj Project Coordinator

Translated in English by:
Viola Metaj
Edited in Albanian and English language by:
The translation company "Albaglobal sh.p.k"

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Design: Elzana Agolli

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dear readers,

This year "Vatra" is coming with this three-year report, 2011-2013, which is a reflection of the work and efforts of "Vatra" in the fight against human trafficking and domestic violence.

The projects implemented during these three years in conformity with the mission of "Vatra" have been focused on:

- Prevention of human trafficking and domestic violence. Awareness-raising and informing the public opinion on these phenomena.
- Provision of direct assistance for the victims/potential victims of trafficking and victims of violence with a view to their re/integration in social life.
- ·Lobbying and advocacy to protect the rights of the abovementioned groups.

The activities and services carried out, and the results achieved during these three years, are definitively a product of the work of "Vatra" staff, the collaboration and coordination of work with the main public and non-public anti-trafficking stakeholders, collaboration with national and international organizations, networks, and coalitions.

In the framework of this report publication, I would like to make use of this opportunity to express my special gratitude to the public institutions at local and central level, such as: The Ministry of Interior/Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (now the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth), the General Directorate of State Police, the regional police directorates, the Head Office of the State Social Service and its regional offices in the districts, the regional educational, employment and health institutions in the districts, etc. The description of project services and activities includes detailed information on the concrete collaboration that "Vatra" has had with these institutions.

A special thank you goes to the National Coalition of the Anti-trafficking Shelters, the Albanian Women Empowerment Network, and to all those different organizations in several districts of the country that we have collaborated with in order to successfully carry out the joint lobbying and advocacy activities, as well as activities for the referral of cases of former victims of trafficking and domestic violence, and provision of support for their rehabilitation and re/integration in social life.

The projects delivered during these three years have been implemented with the technical and financial support of international donors such as: USAID though the International Organization for Migration (IOM), U.S State Department, U.S Embassy, Tirana, The Sigrid Rausing TRUST, London, Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation, Sweden, King Baudouin Foundation, Belgium, UN Voluntary TRUST Fund, Open Society Foundation for Albania SOROS, Austrian Development Cooperation, Tirana, OSCE Presence in Albania, Swedish Support for the Ministry of the Interior/Albanian State Police, World Bank, Tirana. In this framework I would

like to express my acknowledgement to these institutions that believed in and appreciated the capacities of "Vatra", the expertise of the staff and the contribution that "Vatra" has provided during these years in the area of anti-trafficking and violence.

I would like to express special gratitude for the work and dedication of "Vatra" staff. Despite the difficulties and challenges faced, they have successfully carried out with sensitivity and professionalism all the activities on prevention and advocacy, and the reintegration services for former/victims of trafficking and the victims of domestic violence.

Brikena Puka
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING 2011-2013

During 2011-2013 several projects have been implemented to prevent trafficking in human beings and community violence, to protect and provide social inclusion to the victims of these phenomena by means of information, awareness-raising and residential and community social services.

PREVENTION

PROJECT

Project name: "Monitoring local government institutions regarding the enforcement of the law "On measures against violence in family relations" and informing the public opinion to prevent domestic crime".

Funded by: The Embassy of the United States in Tirana

Period: 01/09/2010 – 30/06/2011

Area of implementation: 9 communes and 4 municipalities of the district of Vlora

The implementation of this project started in September 2010 and the activities undertaken in its framework continued to be carried out during the first 6 months of 2011.

Under this project, work was focused on: monitoring local institutions regarding the measures taken pursuant to the Law No. 9669, dated 18/12/2006 "On measures against violence in family relations", increasing information of public opinion and families to protect the victims of domestic violence with a view to preventing domestic crime, and providing social and legal services for the victims of domestic violence.

Activities carried out:

Monitoring the communes and municipalities of Vlora district

Collaboration agreements were endorsed with the 9 communes and 4 municipalities of Vlora district during the first months of the project. Their endorsement made the conduction of on-going monitoring from the project staff easier. "Vatra" experts developed forms which were filled in by the employees of communes and municipalities that receive and assist the victims of domestic violence. The monitoring highlighted that even though the law "On measures against violence in family relations" puts on these institutions the obligation to establish social service structures for the cases of domestic violence, only the municipality of Vlora has established such a structure that operates with a social worker working at the offices of "Vatra" centre. Apart from the municipality of Vlora, none of the other communes and municipalities of Vlora district has established social service structures for the cases of domestic violence. During the meetings we had with the heads of these institutions, they stated that the lack of this structure is a result of insufficient financial resources from local government as well as from the central government. Therefore, the social administrator in the communes and mini-municipalities of Vlora covers, among other tasks, the issue of addressing cases of domestic violence. During direct contacts and surveys conducted in the community, the project staff has

Photos from the sessions with young people in schools

observed that the role of the social administrator in addressing domestic violence is hardly or not at all known.

Monitoring the institutions of police, prosecution office, courts and bailiff's office

Although the project had a specified timeframe for its implementation, being an organization that continuously provides direct services to the victims of violence and trafficking, the work practice of "Vatra" centre is to monitor how local institutions implement policies and the Albanian legislation for the protection of victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. Specifically, during 2011-2013 the process of protection and assistance provided to the victims of domestic violence by the following institutions was monitored: the police, the prosecution office, the court and bailiff's office of Vlora district.

Police

Out of 52 monitored cases only in 38 of them the police officers that are part of the structure against violence have been accurate and available in filling in the lawsuit for the Emergency Protection Order. Meanwhile, the other 12 cases of victims of violence coming to the police station for help have not been considered as such by the police officer with the reasoning that "there were no any visible signs of violence on their body" and, consequently, they have not been assisted in the process of obtaining an Emergency Protection Order.

In many cases the indictments for Emergency Protection Orders submitted by the police are delayed and fall outside the legal deadlines.

Often police officers do a "convincing work" with the victim of violence in order for her to go back home and not report her husband (violator) as "all families have conflicts".

The court

In issuing the Emergency Protection Orders Vlora District Court has complied with the legal deadline of 48 hours for adults and 24 hours for minors, but the disclosure of the decisions for Emergency Protection Orders or even in the cases of a protection order has not been complied with;

The Court does not always give victims of domestic violence 2 copies of the verdict, as provided for by the law.

The prosecution office

In the cases when protection orders have been breached, the prosecution office has delayed the investigation process. The punitive measures taken against perpetrators that have infringed protection orders have been "soft". In the majority of cases perpetrators have not been sentenced to prison, but have been punished with a fine up to 50,000 ALL.

The bailiff's office

This institution has shown neglect and delays in the execution of court decisions. Moreover, many decisions (related to the eviction of the violator from the residence) have not been executed due to the fear of the employees of this institution to confront the perpetrators.

Information sessions with young people of high schools and beneficiaries in "Vatra" shelter

Information sessions with young people have been carried out in 4 high schools of the city of Vlora, which were selected in collaboration with the Regional Educational Directorate in Vlora:

- high school of arts "Naim Frashëri";
- vocational high school "Pavarësia";
- vocational high school "Jani Minga";
- vocational high school "Tregtare".

The following 9 social topics on domestic violence have been addressed: "Domestic violence: An overview of the current situation in Albania", "The causes, forms and consequences of domestic violence", "Gender equality and domestic violence", "The role of media in broadcasting violence. To what extent and how does it affect the behaviour of young people?", "Women, victims of domestic violence", "Children, victims of domestic violence", "Violence in the school premises", "Protective measures against domestic violence". Information on the law "On measures against violence in family relations", "International legislation on the protection of victims of domestic violence".

During January-June 2011, **124** information sessions have been carried out, which have been attended by **694** high schools students (from 300 foreseen in the project). Additionally, focal points were established in each school and they have voluntarily continued to disseminate information even after the conclusion of the project, and have been in contact with "Vatra" for the referral of cases of violence or at risk of being trafficked that needed assistance and support.

Apart from being held with high school students, information sessions have been held with the beneficiaries of "Vatra" shelter as well.

During January-June 2011, **7** information sessions have been carried out with the beneficiaries in the shelter. **23** beneficiaries accommodated in "Vatra" shelter have participated in these sessions.

Trainings for the students of "Ismail Qemali" University

During January-June 2011, two trainings have been conducted with students from the department of law of "Ismail Qemali" University in Vlora.

The topic of the trainings was: "Social and legal aspects of domestic violence". The trainings aimed to increase the level of information and awareness-raising among the participants

regarding the phenomenon of domestic crime and violence, and the Albanian legislation on the protection of victims of violence.

The trainings were delivered by specialists of the legal and social area and they were divided in two sections:

The first section consisted in providing information regarding the following issues: definition of violence, types of violence, causes and consequences of this phenomenon, features and characteristics of violated women, features and characteristics of violating men.

In the second section the participants were introduced to the responsible institutions at central and local level that fight domestic violence, the methods for preventing this phenomenon and the legal tools of the Albanian and international legislation on the prevention and protection of the victims of violence.

Talk radio

In May 2011 a discussion was conducted in one of the local radios of Vlora district. The participants in this discussion were the project coordinator and the lawyer of the centre, who talked about the legislation on the protection of the victims of domestic violence and the social aspects of this phenomenon. The aim of the discussion was to raise the awareness of the Vlora district community and beyond on the phenomenon of domestic violence and the consequences that it generates in the family and community.

Poster publication

The poster "Break the silence!" was published in the framework of the project. Report violence!". This poster was distributed and displayed in the premises of primary and secondary schools of Vlora city and in the communes and municipalities involved in the project. Furthermore, even after the project closure the poster continued to be distributed and displayed in the institutions of police, prosecution office, court and bailiff's office, and public premises during the awareness-raising campaigns that "Vatra" has organized in the framework of the national and international days with different social topics.

Workshop

In May 2011 "Vatra" centre organized a workshop entitled "The role of public institutions in the prevention of domestic violence" which was attended by all the stakeholders that "Vatra" has collaborated with during the project.

The activity consisted in presentations and group work in order to discuss about the current situation of domestic violence in Vlora district, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the responsible institutions regarding the enforcement of the law "On measures against violence in family relations", and the importance of raising awareness among the community on this phenomenon. Additionally, the participants were informed on the problems associated with the work of institutions such as the court, prosecution office, police and bailiff's office regarding the enforcement of the law "On measures against violence in family relations",

without leaving behind the good work of these institutions in relation to the implementation of the abovementioned law. In this framework, once problems were identified and discussed about with the participants, work continued for preparing together the recommendations for the improvement of the work of these institutions.

The conclusions and recommendations coming from this workshop were officially sent to the court, prosecution office, police and bailiff's office, with a view to improving the work of these institutions for the following period and the situation of domestic violence in the country.

Activities with high schools not foreseen in the project

Several information sessions have been held during the implementation of this project in schools which were not included in the project application. This came as a result of the request from the Educational Directorate in Vlora and the Domestic Violence and Child Protection Sector to conduct information sessions not only in public schools, but also in private ones. Thus, specialists of "Vatra" and the Regional Police Directorate in Vlora have held 6 information sessions with students from the schools "Aulona", and "Dritë e Dijes" in Vlora focusing on domestic violence, human trafficking, the consequences of drug use on young people, etc.

In April 2011 the private high school "Internacional" asked for the collaboration of "Vatra" centre to hold an awareness-raising activity entitled "STOP DRUGS - DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE". During the activity students of this high school presented poems and essays, banners with different messages, distributed information materials on the consequences of drug use on health and social life. The experts of "Vatra" and representatives of public health held speeches during the activity addressing the issue of drug use from the social and health point of view.

PROJECT 2

Project name: "Awareness-raising campaign to sensitize public opinion on the risk that domestic violence and gender-based discrimination represent".

Funded by: The World Bank, Tirana

Period: 01/09/2011 – 31/01/2012

Area of implementation: Vlora

The project was implemented for a 5-month period during which several activities were carried out such as: Information sessions with young people of high schools, women and girls, men and boys, seminars, workshops, talk radio. Leaflets were also produced in compliance with the topics addressed during the information sessions, and they were distributed to the young people and the community.

Detailed description of the activities carried out:

1. Preparation of topics, leaflets and evaluation forms

4 specialists who developed 8 social topics on gender-based discrimination and domestic violence were contracted to deliver the project. The topics were addressed during the information sessions with young people of high schools, women and girls, boys and men from the community.

The topics developed were as follows: "Types and forms in which domestic violence occurs", "Causes and consequences of domestic violence. How can we protect ourselves from it?", "The situation of domestic violence in Albania", "Gender-based discrimination. The current situation in Albania", "Gender equality in work relations", "Violence against women and children. The existing services for these groups", "What does the law "On measures against violence in family relations" and the law "On gender equality" stipulate?", "Gender stereotypes and the methods to eliminate them".

Leaflets were also prepared in compliance with the topics, which were distributed to the participants at the end of the information sessions. Similarly, evaluation forms were prepared, which were filled in from high school students at the beginning and end of the project. The purpose was to evaluate the level of knowledge of young people on gender-based discrimination and domestic violence at the beginning of the project implementation and the level of the knowledge acquired at the end of it.

Photo from the sessions with young people in "Jani Minga" high school

Photo from the sessions with young people in "Ali Demi" high school

Photo from the sessions with young people in "Naim Frashëri" high school

Photo from the sessions with young people in ""Pavarësia" high school

2. *Information sessions*

5 high schools of Vlora city were selected for the conduction of information sessions with young people in collaboration with the Regional Educational Directorate. Respectively: "Ali Demi", "Jani Minga", "Naim Frashëri", "Tregtare" and "Pavarësia". The school directorates selected 2 classes for each school to hold the information sessions and a teacher who served as a contact point and provided support to the staff in order to successfully carry out the activities in these schools.

3 groups were formed for delivering information sessions with women and girls, whose objective was to address the social topics. From these, a group with women and girls victims of domestic violence and 2 groups with women and girls that come from families with social problems.

Likewise, in collaboration with the Directorate of Economic Aid and Social Services in the Municipality of Vlora two groups were established composed of 18 boys and men from the community, with whom the specialists worked with a view to informing them about the risk domestic violence and gender-based discrimination represent, and the aim was to involve them in the elimination of gender stereotypes.

96 information sessions were held during the implementation of the project, respectively:

- 73 information session with young people of high schools of Vlora city;
- 18 information sessions with women and girls;
- 5 information sessions with boys and men.

Photo from the information sessions with women and girls

Photo from the information sessions with men

The number of participants in the information sessions was as follows:

- 367 young people of high schools;
- 69 women and girls;
- 36 men and boys.

Seminars in schools

4 seminars were held in 4 schools during the project implementation and respectively:

- On October 21, 2011, a seminar was held in the vocational high school "Tregtare" with the topic: "Domestic violence - its consequences on the education of the young generation".

The topic of the seminar was selected in collaboration with the directorate and teachers of the school where the activity was held, taking into consideration the problems this school faces.

73 students, parents and teachers participated in this seminar. The issues addressed consisted in providing information in relation to: the consequences of violence on the education of the young generation, the Albanian legislation on the protection of victims of domestic violence, the new communication methods in schools and their application.

Photo from the seminar in the high school "Jani Minga"

Seminar in the high school "Tregtare"

Photo from the exhibition of paintings in "Naim Frashëri" school, Vlora

Photo from the seminar in "Ali Demi" high school, Vlora

- On December 2, 2011, a seminar was held in the pedagogical high school "Jani Minga" with the topic: "Putting an end to gender stereotypes and domestic violence through education at school".

65 students, parents and teachers of the school participated in this seminar. The issues addressed by experts of the area were as follows: "Prevention of gender stereotypes through education at school", "Prevention of domestic violence", "The Albanian legislation on domestic violence and gender-based discrimination".

- On December 21, 2011, a seminar was held in the high school of arts "Naim Frashëri" with the topic: "Together against domestic violence and gender-based discrimination".

79 students, parents and teachers of the school participated in this seminar. The issues addressed in the seminar were as follows: "Domestic violence and gender-based discrimination. Their consequences on the education of the young generation", "All together against domestic and community violence".

At the end of the seminar an exhibition was organized with paintings realized by the students of the school in compliance with topic of the seminar. About 40 works of the students were displayed in the exhibition and it was visited by the guests in the seminar. The best works were awarded with prizes.

- On January 19, 2012, a seminar was held in the high school "Ali Demi" with the topic: "Domestic violence. Consequences on the education of the young generation" with the participation of teachers, students and parents. A total of 84 persons took part in this event. The issues addressed in the seminar were as follows: "The school and its role in preventing violence", "Domestic violence - the causes and consequences on children", "What does the Albanian legislation on the protection of the victims of violence stipulate".

Workshop

On November 30, 2011, a workshop was held entitled: "Domestic violence and gender stereotypes in the Albanian society" with the participation of the teachers and psychologists of primary and secondary schools of Vlora city. One facilitator and 2 experts of the area were contracted to carry out the workshop where the following issues were addressed: "The

psycho-social treatment of domestic violence" and "Gender stereotypes, prejudice and gender-based discrimination". In addition to this, group work was conducted during which the experts and participants addressed cases of domestic violence and gender stereotypes. An important part of the workshop were the discussions on gender issues and experience exchange between those present. Additionally, the experts aimed to guide the participants towards "the best practices" to be followed by everyone in their everyday work with the students.

Photo from the workshop with school teachers and psychologists of Vlora district.

21 teachers and psychologists of primary and secondary schools of the city participated in the workshop.

Talk radio

In December 2011 a talk radio was hosted, where issues of gender equality and domestic violence were addressed from the social and legal point of view. The speakers in this discussion were the lawyer of "Vatra" centre and the Director of the Economic Aid and Social Services Directorate at the Municipality of Vlora. The discussion was broadcasted in one of the local radios of Vlora district, aiming to raise awareness among the community on domestic violence and gender equality.

PROJECT 3

Project name: "Increasing information and awareness-raising among the Police community on the rights of victims of trafficking"

Funded by: USAID through the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Period: 20 /11/ 2012– 20 /02 2013

Area of implementation: 12 regions of the country

The purpose of this project was to increase the level of information of State Police structures and victims of trafficking on their rights, the national mechanisms for the protection of victims of trafficking and addressing the services for this target group.

The project was implemented during November 2011 - February 2013, in two stages: The first stage consisted in drafting and producing informative materials on the rights of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and the second stage consisted in increasing the level of information of police structures throughout the regions of the country and of the victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking by means of distributing the materials produced.

Activities carried out:

1. *Presentation of the project at the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the General Directorate of State Police.*

Two information meetings were carried out with the representatives of the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator and the General Director of State Police. The purpose of these meetings was to present the project and its objectives, and ensure the support needed by these structures for the delivery the project.

2. *Drafting and endorsing the Agreement between the General Directorate of State Police and "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre for the implementation of the project.*

Two agreements were drafted and endorsed in collaboration with the directors of the GDSP, which object was to:

- Build the capacities of police structures at local level on recognizing the rights of the victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking.
- Protect, support, assist and reintegrate the victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and the victims of domestic violence.

Also, the GDSP appointed specialists that would be active in the delivery of the project activities.

- **Brainstorming forums on the information materials.**

Two forums were organized during the project period:

The first forum was held on January 6, 2013 and it was attended by specialists of the ONAC, the General Directorate of State Police, anti-trafficking experts from IOM and Vatra.

Various ideas were raised during the first forum on the kind of materials to be published and other ideas were given on the content of these materials, and a conclusion was reached to prepare brochures, leaflets and posters (as foreseen).

The content of the brochure would be based on the presentation of rights of VoT/PVoT and on a presentation of practices and instructions on observing the rights of victims/potential victims of trafficking during their reception, identification and referral by state police structures. These practices would be the result of specific case studies assisted by the NCATS shelters. In this respect, cooperation with other NCATS members was required, which would contribute by bringing on the table concrete cases assisted by them.

In the first forum it was agreed that the leaflet and the poster would have the same content, and more concretely: They would introduce the rights of citizens when faced with the state police (not necessarily VoT and PVoT) and the obligations of the state police in observing these rights. It was agreed that the background would be the image of the state police officer and a citizen facing each other. The aim of the preparation of these two materials with the same contents was that while being at the premises of the state police the citizens could be able to read their rights displayed on a poster and also receive this information through the leaflet which would be made available to them by the police officers or services providers.

After on-going talks between "Vatra" local experts, the IOM expert and specialists at the GDSP and ONAC, the draft materials for the leaflet, brochure and poster were prepared, which were then presented during the second forum.

The second forum was held on January 18, 2013 and it saw the participation of not only the above specialists, but also of police officers from different regions of the country from the structures of fight against illegal trafficking/investigation and crime, as well as representatives from the State Social Service, NCATS and ARSIS organization. (20 participants).

The draft materials were discussed during this forum and other ideas were generated for their improvement.

Upon conclusion of the second forum, the local expert elaborated all the ideas and opinions on the materials.

- **Sharing and discussing draft materials with the victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and social workers.**

6 beneficiaries from "Vatra" centre, 2 social workers and project experts took part in the meeting held immediately after the second forum.

The purpose of the meeting was to share with the beneficiaries the draft materials prepared after the second forum, and complement them with new ideas. This meeting, which saw the exchange of ideas and experiences from the victims, who are beneficiaries of this centre, served to clarify the language used in the draft materials and to further complement them with new ideas. It also raised the awareness of these victims in relation to their rights during identification at the police and referral for assistance.

All the beneficiaries reached to the conclusion that these materials will be very helpful to all victims/potential victims of trafficking, because it will be easier for them to be informed and ask for their rights and proper support for the problems they face.

Distribution of draft materials among experts, main contributors to the project

The materials were distributed among the main project contributors and they gave their feedback mainly on the comments for the case studies, as it was highly important for these comments to come from the police community.

Finalization of the materials prepared

The project experts finalized the materials prepared during the activities of the first stage of the project, by giving them their final form and content.

Second stage of the project

1. *Editing and publication of the materials*

The following materials were printed and published:

· The brochure **"Be informed and act"** is addressed to the state police officers and mainly to the anti-trafficking, crime and violence specialists. This brochure has served as a very important working tool for the activity of state police employees during the identification process, as the case studies on which police specialists have given comments have served as a practical guide in solving problems and providing alternatives as per the legislation and the Standard Operating Procedures for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking.

· The leaflet and poster **"Be informed and ask"**, due to their practical format and contents, are very informative, including on one side the rights of the Albanian citizens when contacting with police officers and on the other side the obligations of the latter in observing and implementing the rights of victims/potential victims of

trafficking. The language used in these materials is clear and easily understandable by the citizens and police officers.

2. *Information and awareness-raising meetings with the Police community and the distribution of produced materials*

In order to ensure support and facilitation in the conduction of meetings at Regional Police Directorates throughout the 12 regions of the country, partner organizations of "Vatra" were contacted for delivering the information meetings, and specifically: "Agitra Vision" in Peshkopia, "Woman to Woman" in Shkodra, the Counselling Centre for Women and Girls in Durrës, "D&E" in Tirana, "ALB Aid" in Kukës, "Kennedy" Centre in Korça. In those regions where NGOs working in the same area as "Vatra" were not present, the collaboration was established with police officers from the Anti-Trafficking offices and Domestic Violence Sector who facilitated the delivery of the meetings.

The GDSP has supported the realization of information meetings by ensuring high participation in every meeting and being having in each meeting a specialist of GDSP (Directorate Against Trafficking in Persons and the Department Against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes).

A total of 12 information meetings were carried out in 12 Regional Police Directorates. 370 police officers from the Sector Against Trafficking in Persons, Crime Unit, Border and Migration Police, serious crimes police officers attended the meetings.

These meetings served for presenting information on the project, its activities, materials published, and discussions were held on concrete cases of victims/potential victims of trafficking, victims of domestic violence and how to address their needs.

Photo from the meeting at the Regional Police Directorate in Vlora

Photo from the meeting at the Regional Police Directorate in Kukës

Photo from the meeting at the Regional Police Directorate in Gjirokastër.

All participants emphasized the importance of capacity building in the anti-trafficking structures by increasing their knowledge on the victims of trafficking rights, and the proper implementation of all obligations deriving from the legislation and Standard Operating Procedures during the identification and referral of victims/potential victims of trafficking. After each meeting, the information materials produced by "Vatra" were distributed, which can be found in every police office of the abovementioned structures at all levels.They provide help to police structures in their everyday work by increasing their information on the rights of victims and their obligations to identify and protect the victims of trafficking.

The information materials were also distributed to partner organizations of "Vatra", which work to provide support to the trafficked persons or those at risk of being trafficked.

PROJECT 4

Project name: "Awareness-raising campaign to sensitize the community in the rural areas on the risk that domestic violence represents, and provision of social services to women and girls, victims of domestic violence in the district of Vlora"

Funded by: The Embassy of the United States in Tirana

Period: September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013.

Area of implementation: 2 communes (Novoselë and Vllahinë) and 2 municipalities of Vlora districts (Orikum and Selenicë)

The project objective was to raise awareness and increase the level of information on domestic violence, and provide social and psychological services to the victims of this phenomenon.

The following activities were carried out in the framework of the project:

Establishing contacts with the local government in the municipalities and communes selected in the project

During the first month of the project, contacts were established with the following municipalities: Orikum, Selenicë and the communes of Vllahinë, and Novoselë, where the project was presented, and collaboration agreements were renewed and endorsed. The focal points for the conduction of information sessions in the community were defined in collaboration with the heads of the communes and municipalities. The information meetings with the community were carried out in the premises made available from the heads of municipalities and communes.

2. *Establishing contacts with high school directorates in the municipalities and communes. Establishing focal points and groups.*

As per the collaboration agreement with the Educational Directorate of Vlora district, the staff of "Vatra" Centre is allowed to hold information sessions in high schools during the sociology class. Agreements have been endorsed with 4 high school directorates of both municipalities: Orikum, Selenicë and both communes of Vllahinë and Novoselë, respectively with:

- the comprehensive high school "Hasan Pulo", municipality of Orikum;
- the comprehensive high school "Hajredin Beqari", municipality of Selenicë;
- the comprehensive high school "Myhnyr Xhindi", Vllahinë commune;
- the comprehensive high school "Pilo Prifti", Novoselë commune.

1 teacher was appointed as a focal point in every school in collaboration with the school directorates, who provided support and facilitated the project staff in order to successfully

carry out the activities. 1 group of 10 students was established in each school in collaboration with these focal points, who distributed leaflets, brochures and other information materials to the students and community, not only during the project implementation but after its termination as well.

3. *Information sessions with women, men, girls and boys from the community*

A total of 44 information sessions with 75 men and women from the community were held during September 2012 - August 2013 in the municipalities and communes where the project was implemented. The following topics were addressed with the participants: "Definition of domestic violence and its current situation in Albania", "The types and forms of domestic violence", "The Law on measures against violence in family relations", "The causes and factors affecting domestic violence", "Violence against women and children, and the services provided to the victims of violence", "The consequences and problems generated by domestic violence", "The cycle of domestic violence", etc.

Information meetings were held interactively, aiming not only to share information with the participants, but also to encourage their active participation by bringing concrete examples and cases from the community regarding the cases addressed.

Photo from the session with women and men in Novoselë commune.

Photo from the session with men and women in Vllahinë commune.

4. *Information sessions with high school students in the municipalities and communes*

2 classes were selected in each of the schools that had signed a collaboration agreement, and 2 information meetings per month were held with each of them. 16 information meetings per month, a total of 144 with approximately 300 students of these schools were held during the academic year 2012-2013. The topics addressed with this target group were the same as those tackled with community members, but adapting them as per their age.

Different methods for information sharing were used during the information meetings, from the vertical flow of information, to the illustration with concrete examples and discussions about them, presentation of short stories, organization in discussion groups, etc.

Photo of the stand in "Mynyr Xhindi" high school, Vllahinë

Photo from the seminar in Selenicë municipality

Photo from the seminar in Orikum municipality

The knowledge acquired from the participants was evaluated at the end of each meeting.

Those cases that asked for the support of a psychologist, were referred to the psychologist of "Vatra" to receive the required service.

As per the request of the focal points and the school directorates, several stands were build displaying photos of the information activities led by "Vatra" staff, the competitions carried out between the students on the acquired knowledge and works of the students themselves on the topics addressed during the information sessions.

5. *Preparation of topics and leaflets*

The project staff prepared leaflets for all the topics addressed during the information sessions, which were distributed not only to the participants but also to other school students or to the community.

6. *Seminars*

1 seminar per each area (a total of 4 seminars) was carried out in collaboration with the municipalities, communes and high school directorates where the project was implemented. Their topics were in compliance with the situation of domestic violence in these areas, such as: "Domestic violence. The consequences in the education of the young generation", "The responsibilities of the local government and the role of schools in reducing violence in the society", "Violence is a crime. Together against domestic violence", "Stop to the phenomenon of domestic and community violence".

By addressing these topics we aimed to raise awareness and sensitize the community, especially the young generation, on the phenomenon of domestic violence.

Apart from the specialists of "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre, panellists in the seminars were also the heads of municipalities and communes, directors and teachers of the high schools, and representatives from the community. The participants, men, women, girls and boys, teachers, high school students, parents, presented the problems of violence in the community they lived. They mainly aimed to give the reasons for the presence of this problem among the families of their community.

Each seminar was attended by approximately 70-80 persons.

7. *Talk radio*

Two talk radios were carried out by the specialists of "Vatra" Centre so that information and awareness-raising on domestic violence could reach the community to a large extent. The topics addressed were as follows: "The Law on measures against violence in family relations" and "The services provided by "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre in Vlora for the victims of domestic violence".

Photos from the awareness-raising activities in the public areas of Vlora city.

8. *Activities in public areas*

Awareness-raising and information activities have been carried out in public areas in the framework of the project implementation, where leaflets, posters, purple ribbons (a symbol of the fight against violence) have been distributed and videos with topics against domestic violence have been displayed. These activities have been carried out not only in the areas where the project was implemented, but in some suburbs of Vlora city as well.

PROJECT 5

Project name: "Strengthening collaboration between the police and youth to prevent and reduce trafficking in human beings".

Funded by: Swedish Support to the Ministry of Interior and Albanian State Police on Community Policing.

Period: 15/11/2013 – 31/01/2014

Area of implementation: Vlora

The project was implemented in Vlora city in collaboration with the Regional Police Directorate, respectively with the anti-trafficking sector and the Regional Educational Directorate. In the framework of the project, information sessions in schools were carried out, and focal points were established, meetings with police officers at the Police Directorate in Vlora were held, psychological assistance at the Police was provided, etc.

The local media was involved in the project as well. In this framework, a talk radio and an awareness-raising spot were carried out in one of the local TV stations of Vlora district.

Specifically, the activities consisted in:

1. *Meeting with the partner institutions in the project*

With the start of project implementation, a meeting was held with the stakeholders involved in the project in order to present the activities and collaborate for the delivery of the mentioned activities. This meeting was attended by 15 representatives from the Police of Vlora, the schools involved, the Regional Educational Directorate in Vlora and the media. A conclusion was reached in the meeting on the action and planning methods for the successful performance of the foreseen activities.

2. *Information sessions with young people*

This activity was carried out in 6 schools of the city of Vlora (3 primary schools and 3 secondary schools), which were selected in collaboration with the Regional Educational Directorate in Vlora. A total of 26 information sessions were held, where the expert of "Vatra" and representatives of Police in Vlora addressed issues such as: prevention of trafficking in human beings by means of community policing, the State Police protecting the community and collaboration with police to achieve public security.

694 young people attended the information sessions.

The sessions were interactive, where apart from presentations, young people were also involved in discussions. Each information session has been documented with a list of attendees and photos.

Photos from the sessions with young people in the schools involved in the project.

3. *Establishment of focal points*

Focal points composed of 5 students were established in every school involved in the project. They received informative materials to be distributed in the schools. These focal points have been in on-going contact with "Vatra" and the representatives of Police in order to continue the awareness-raising work not only in schools but in the community as well.

The purpose of establishing these focal points was to ensure sustainability in the information of students and community during and after the project implementation. The representatives of the Police and "Vatra" have continued to keep contacts with these students even after the project termination in order to ensure the continuity of the awareness-raising work.

4. *Psychological assistance at the Police*

The psychologist of "Vatra" Centre has provided psychological service for minors at the premises of the Police station every time that this service has been required by this institution. A total of 26 cases have been assisted, mainly boys and girls that have been exploited from adults to commit the following offences: theft, begging, etc., categorized as young people at risk of being trafficked.

Likewise, the psychologist has been available to answer to the requests of school directorates and students for individual and group counselling. A total of 1 group counselling session and 4 individual counselling sessions have been conducted.

5. *Preparation and placement of stands in schools*

Stands with materials, photographs from the sessions and messages related to community policing have been prepared for the 6 primary and secondary schools involved in the project.

A total of 6 stands have been established in the schools premises (1 stand per school).

6. *Meeting with the police officers in Vlora*

This activity was not been foreseen in the project, but it came as a request of the police itself. The meeting was held with the public order inspectors and patrols upon termination of the information sessions. This meeting was chaired by the representatives of police attending the information sessions. The purpose of the meeting was to increase the level of information

of the participants on community policing and transmit them the concerns of young people in order to establish connecting bridges between the police and the community.

7. *Talk radio*

A discussion was conducted in one of the local radios of Vlora district during the project implementation. During the discussion, the two experts, respectively from the Police in Vlora and the Child Protection Unit in the Municipality of Vlora, addressed issues related to the importance of community policing in preventing the exploitation and trafficking of children and young people.

8. *Awareness-raising message on a TV station*

An awareness-raising message has been prepared, which has been broadcasted and will continue to be broadcasted on one of the local media of Vlora district, with a view to involving the community in the prevention and fight against crime.

2 young people and the Chief of Police Station in Vlora were involved in this awareness-raising message, who have launched messages to increase community collaboration in the fight against crime. The contents of the message was as follows:

A student (boy): We all deserve to live in a safe society.

A student (girl): We deserve to feel protected.

The Chief of the Police Station of Vlora - This can only be achieved if you become part of the prevention and fight against crime. We are jointly responsible for public security. We are here to serve you!"

Final meeting with the stakeholders involved in the project

At the end of the project a meeting was held with all the stakeholders involved in the delivery of all the project components. The meeting was attended by 17 representatives of the police, schools, media. During this meeting the activities conducted and the outcomes were presented, and recommendations were also given with a view to improving everyone's work in preventing and increasing reporting of crime.

OTHER AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Apart from the activities foreseen in projects, "Vatra" has also carried out several activities in public areas in order to raise awareness of the community on the phenomenon of human trafficking and domestic violence.

In this framework, the following activities have been carried out:

Activities on October 18, the European Anti-Trafficking Day

On the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, on October 18 every year, "Vatra" Centre in collaboration with other NGOs of Vlora city has organized activities in the district of Vlora with a view to raising awareness among the public on the phenomenon of trafficking and informing them on the services provided to help the victims of trafficking. The activities consisted in the distribution of information materials (leaflets, brochures, newsletters), display of videos in public areas with messages against trafficking, display of posters in the city with topics related to trafficking in human beings, etc.

Photos from the awareness raising activities

Public march against domestic and community violence

Every November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and simultaneously the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, "Vatra" has organized a public march along the main city boulevard. This activity has seen the collaboration of public institutions and NGOs of Vlora district such as the Municipality of Vlora, Regional Police Directorate in Vlora, Regional Educational Directorate, Public Health Directorate, "Ismail Qemali" University, the Centre of Women "Aulona", "AULEDA" Centre, the Youth Centre. The activities were aimed at informing and raising awareness among the community members on violence and its consequences. The slogans used over the years were "Together against domestic and community violence", "Boys and men part of the solution - Demonstrate that you are against violence!". Leaflets, brochures, ribbons symbolising the fight against violence have been distributed during these activities.

Photo from the public march

Activities on March 8

In the framework of the International Women's Day, "Vatra" Centre has organized activities in the city of Vlora which have mainly consisted in the distribution of flowers to women and girls passing by the Vlorë-Skelë boulevard, and the distribution of information materials such as leaflets and brochures on the rights of women, which were received with a lot of interest by the women that became part of the activity.

Photos from the activity on March 8

DIRECT SUPPORT FOR THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"Direct assistance for the accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking, potential victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence"

Funded by: the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Embassy of the United States in Tirana, IOM (with USAID funds), the King Baudouin Foundation, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, OSCE presence in Albania, the Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS), The Sigrid Rausing TRUST, UN Voluntary Trust Fund.

Area of implementation: Beneficiaries from all over Albania.

During the three year period 2011-2013, "Vatra" continued the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking, victims of violence and their children. We would like to highlight that during 2012 the continuation of service provision in "Vatra" shelter went through a critical financial period for approximately 6 months due to insufficient funding sources. The managing staff of "Vatra" raised this problem to the Albanian Government and to international organizations, and asked for their support. Actually, the Albanian Government did not deem necessary the continuity of rehabilitation services of "Vatra" shelter and international donors were the ones that appreciated our work and financially contributed to the sustainability of services for the victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence. The TIP Report 2012 of the U.S. Department of State highlighted that the Albanian Government was not supporting the services for victims of trafficking in Albania although the continuity of provision of these services from non-public shelters was at risk.

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As we have presented in the annual reports of previous years, rehabilitation and reintegration services for these categories of beneficiaries have been provided in the shelter, families, and community, where the beneficiaries need support from "Vatra" and the partners the Centre is collaborating with for the provision of these services.

Assistance in the shelter with rehabilitation and reintegration services has been mainly provided to the victims/potential victims of trafficking that due to the lack of support from their families have had few accommodation alternatives. Thus, the assistance provided to them started with accommodation, meeting the basic needs and then continued with other services of the program in the shelter, even after leaving the shelter. All former victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking that have accepted to be included in the program, whether assisted in the shelter or in the family, have received the package of services in the three phases of the program according to the will and needs of the beneficiaries themselves.

Based on the Standards of Residential Centres for the Victims of Trafficking the long-term reintegration program shall last up to 3 years, but sometimes even longer, up to 5 years.

During 2011 - 2013 a total of 112 victims / potential victims of trafficking have been assisted, out of which 28 were taken from 2010 and 84 were new cases referred from different sources to be assisted at "Vatra". The following section consists in a tabular and analytical presentation of the profile of victims/potential victims of trafficking.

As highlighted above, apart from victims of trafficking, assistance has also been provided to the victims of violence and abuse. This target group has received short term accommodation in the shelter, up to several days, and upon obtaining the Protection Order they have been then referred to the National Centre for Domestic Violence or to their families. These have mainly been cases referred from the Police, State Social Service or the Court. Meanwhile, cases of victims of violence coming directly to benefit legal, psychological service, mediation for vocational education and employment have been assisted at the prevention offices of "Vatra".

A total of 242 victims of violence have been assisted, out of which 24 have received temporary service in the shelter apart from other services.

The section on direct services described below includes more detailed information regarding the services that the abovementioned target groups have received in the framework of the projects implemented by "Vatra" during 2011-2013.

PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

CATEGORY	Total no. of cases	No. of cases taken from 2010	No. of new cases in the 2011-2013 program
Victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking	112	28	84
Children accompanied by their mothers	21	1	20
Victims of domestic violence assisted at the prevention office	218	16	202
Victims of violence and abuse (assisted with accommodation as well)	24	2	22
Total	**375**	**47**	**328**

58 cases of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking have been identified by the police and the State Social Service and 26 cases by other referring organizations or "Vatra". Whereas, for victims of violence identification has been carried out by the referring institutions, police, court or NGOs in 148 cases, and in other 70 cases by the staff of "Vatra". The latter were cases asking for direct assistance at the counselling offices of "Vatra".

SERVICES PROVIDED TO PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES IN THE REINTEGRATION CENTRE (SHELTER)

1. Accommodation

A total of 69 beneficiaries (girls and women together with their children) have been accommodated in "Vatra" shelter. After receiving accommodation, the basic needs of all beneficiaries were met, such as: food and clothing; medical check-ups have been also conducted to assess their general health conditions at the moment of arrival in the shelter.

The cases accommodated in the shelter have been identified and referred from different sources such as: the Police, Mobile Unit, State Social Service, (Regional Offices), Directorates of State Social Service and Economic Aid in the districts, Agritra Vizion, different NGOs, etc.

Additionally, in the framework of the project 24 cases have been assisted in rented apartments. Below there is a description of these services.

Need assessment for cases and children accompanied by their mothers, and achievement of the assistance plan by the specialists.

The process of needs assessment and the drafting of the assistance plan is carried out by the multidisciplinary team of the centre for all the victims accommodated in the shelter, that have been included with their consent in the long-term program of the centre. This procedure is carried out based on the approved standards for the support of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and the victims of domestic violence. Based on these standards each beneficiary has her respective file which reflects all the necessary actions to help her as per the need for intervention and support. The needs assessment for the new cases accommodated in the shelter has been conducted, and the assistance plan has been developed afterwards (within 2 weeks from their accommodation in the shelter).

Health care assistance

This service is provided by the doctor in the Centre or by other specialists in different institutions according to the specificities of health problems that the beneficiaries or their children have had. Health related problems are many and various, bearing in mind the situation where the former victims of trafficking, violence and abuse come from.

The doctor of the Centre has conducted periodic medial check-ups, and in cases of specific health problems the beneficiaries have been referred to and accompanied at the health care institutions in the district.

During this period, a total of 86 cases have been addressed, which have resulted with different pathologies such as: gonorrhoea, Hepatitis B, otitis, viral conditions, cephalea, dental problems, febrile condition, mental health problems, abstinence problems, gynaecologic

problems, etc. The respective medications and adequate medical health care have been ensured as per the prescriptions and advice of medical specialists.

Special care has been dedicated to children and pregnant women. The number of children in the shelter has been high mainly during 2012-2013, and consequently, health problems (mainly viral) have increased and have been often treated in hospitals. Pregnant women have been periodically accompanied to perform ultrasound scans, different medical tests and the respective medications have been ensured for the progress of the pregnancy.

In the framework of providing this service, "Vatra" has collaborated with the Public Health Directorate, the Regional Hospital of Vlora district, Psychiatric Hospital, "Aulona" Centre, the health care centres, etc. Specifically, the Public Health Directorate has provided free of charge screenings for Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Medical check-ups and consultations, gynaecologic ultrasounds, PAP smears, etc., have been performed free of charge at "Aulona" Centre. Likewise, this organization has conducted group counselling and information sessions in the shelter with the beneficiaries on personal hygiene, care during pregnancy, care against sexually transmitted diseases, child care, etc.

When specialists have deemed that the beneficiaries or their children needed to be hospitalized, proper care was given to the latter not only by the staff of the regional hospital of Vlora district but also by the doctor of the shelter, who has followed up the progress of the illness up to the complete recovery of the beneficiaries.

In order to assist the beneficiaries who had mental health problems during their residence in the shelter, the doctor of the centre has closely collaborated with the psychologists of the centre and the Psychiatric Hospital in Vlora. 14 cases with severe problems have been referred for medical check-up to the Psychiatric Hospital and have been treated with the respective medications as per the prescription of the medical specialist.

Collaboration was established with infant health care clinics of the Health Care Centres regarding the vaccination, performance of periodic medical check-ups and opening immunization schedules for the beneficiaries' children.

"Vatra" has signed collaboration agreements with all the abovementioned institutions, and these institutions have provided the respective services as per these agreements in order to fulfil the health care needs of beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the doctor of the centre has conducted group counselling sessions with the beneficiaries in the shelter regarding: reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, personal hygiene, dental care, healthy nutrition, child care in case of viral infections, etc.

Psychological assistance and counselling

Because of the problems and hardships encountered, victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence manifest several psychological problems. Almost all the victims come from dysfunctional families. They have gone through one or more traumatic experiences in their life and have adapted non healthy mechanisms to cope with stress. They manifest physiological problems such as chronic headaches, insomnia, etc., and mental health disorders such as symptoms of post traumatic stress, anxiety disorders, depression, anger outbursts, and aggressive/hostile behaviours. During this 3 year period the psychologist has been present in the shelter daily, holding 1-2 counselling sessions per week

with each of the beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter, as per their needs and concerns. The psychologist has carried out a total of 380 individual counselling sessions and 86 group sessions.

The counselling sessions with these beneficiaries were aimed at reducing the symptoms of mental health problems, recovering the psychological and emotional balance, and improving relationships with the families.

Due to the psychological problems and past experiences, the beneficiaries often manifest problems in maintaining balance in their relationships with others, difficulties in being in committed to responsibilities and activities of everyday life, and find it hard to take care of their children (in case they have children). All these problems have also been under the focus of the psychologist's work during the counselling sessions.

Apart from the individual counselling sessions, group meetings have been carried out facilitated by the psychologist, during which psychological tests have been conducted and the following issues have been addressed: strategies on managing conflicts in everyday life, parent-child communication, self-confidence and self-esteem, social aspects of domestic violence, emotional intelligence, anxiety and stress level, importance of education and preparation for independent living, etc.

The beneficiaries' children were also at the focus of the psychologist's work, as they are often witnesses and at the same time victims of abuse and exploitation. The psychologist of the Centre has performed the evaluation of their psycho-emotional development and has identified their needs for psychological intervention. Children often manifest symptoms of stress, anxiety and behavioural disorders. Psychological intervention for children includes individual and group sessions (if possible, taking into consideration the age of the child as well) in order to stabilize the emotional situation, eliminate anxiety and stress, and reduce problematic behaviours and efforts have been made for eliminating misunderstandings and scenarios that children may have created in relation to the use of violence and abuse. Additionally, work has been carried out for supporting and strengthening the relationships of the child with the mother, working simultaneously with both of them.

Psycho-social support

The psycho-social support has been provided by the social workers of the shelter with a view to planning and implementing the reintegration process. The social workers conduct frequent individual counselling sessions, in compliance with the objectives defined in the individual reintegration plan of each of the beneficiaries.

For each case accommodated in the shelter and that has accepted to enter the program, the counselling sessions have consisted in identifying the problem, stabilizing the emotional state, addressing needs, increasing self-esteem, managing risk and conflicts, etc.

Furthermore, the social workers (case managers) have provided counselling on the importance of establishing contacts with the family, importance of education and vocational education, improving life skills, etc.

The counselling sessions have been even more frequent with mothers with children, to make easier the adaptation of children in the premises of the shelter. Special attention was paid to counselling on child care, especially when the latter have had health problems.

The social workers conduct group counselling sessions as well, during which the following topics are addressed: "The rights and obligations in the family", "The teacher as a second parent", "Social networks - a communication method, but also a risk", "The Albanian traditions and customs", "Parental care for preschool children", "What is life? Why should we appreciate life?", etc.

Group sessions, apart from informing, also aim to provide emotional stability, entertain the beneficiaries and prepare them for their reintegration in social life.

Socio-cultural activities inside and outside the shelter

The activities to be performed with the beneficiaries assisted in the shelter are conducted by the multidisciplinary team in collaboration with the beneficiaries themselves, also taking into account their needs and wishes, and depending on the internal regulations of the program. Relaxation activities such as music nights, bibliotherapy, quizzes or different psychological questionnaires, play and creativity time with colours and play-doh, or celebration of birthdays remain among the most popular activities for the beneficiaries during their stay in the shelter.

More to the point, some of the activities performed include:

- Bibliotherapy

The social workers together with the beneficiaries choose books from the library of the shelter, read and discuss on the issues addressed in these books. Two bibliotherapy sessions per week are held based on the book chapters.

- Activities to improve basic life skills

These activities have mainly consisted in:

- practising professional skills in the shelter for those beneficiaries that have completed cooking, hairdressing and tailoring courses;
- learning to cook new dishes;
- preparing homemade face and hair masks;
- improving skills to keep clean the environment where we live;
- handicrafts (embroidery and lacework).

- Entertaining activities in the shelter

- music nights organized by the social workers on shift;
- "Zumba" dance organized twice a month by external trainers;
- watercolours and oil painting organized by the teacher of the shelter;
- "home cinema" with rented movies;
- electronic games for the beneficiaries who have reached the appropriate age.

- Entertaining activities outside the shelter

In order to get out from the daily routine in the shelter, several activities have been organized with the beneficiaries outside the shelter, such as: picnic, museum visits, visits to tourist sites, games in the playground, etc. These activities have been carried out not only in Vlora, but also in other cities like: Tirana, Berat, Gjirokastra, Fier, etc.

- Celebrating national and religious holidays

At "Vatra" shelter we celebrate all national and religious holidays, like: Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, Bayram, March 7-8, May 1, June 1, etc. A special atmosphere has characterized the shelter during these important days, as the beneficiaries have cooked dishes chosen by them, have prepared deserts and have often exchanged gifts between them.

Legal assistance and counselling

This service has been provided by the lawyer of the centre and has consisted in individual and group counselling, and in the provision of assistance in the following institutions: the Police, Prosecutor's Office, Court, Main Office of Civil Registry in Tirana and the Regional Offices of Civil Registry in districts, etc., as per the legal needs and problems of the beneficiaries.

During January 2011-December 2013, 117 beneficiaries have been assisted and have received counselling (96 new cases and 21 taken from 2010) on the following legal cases: reporting the trafficker, reporting the violator/abuser, divorce, obtaining Protection Orders, placing the child under custody, registering children in the Civil Registry, etc. The beneficiaries that have reported the trafficker or violator/abuser have been accompanied to the Police, Prosecutor's Office or Court to give statements or testify, whenever this was deemed necessary and was required by the respective institutions.

Among other things, the lawyer has supported the beneficiaries during the process of receiving identification means such as: birth certificates and identity cards when they did not possess these documents.

Additionally, for a beneficiary who had the orphan status, we have collaborated with the Office of Economic Aid in Levan (Fier) in order for the economic aid to be allocated to her due to the status she has.

Group sessions have been carried out with the beneficiaries in the shelter, where the following issued have been addressed: the Albanian legislation on the protection of the victims of trafficking / potential victims of trafficking, the fundamental human rights, the legislation on gender equality, procedures for obtaining a Protection Order, domestic violence as a criminal offence, the legal framework on the protection of children victims of trafficking, etc.

Education

Beneficiaries at school age continue their education process even during their residence at "Vatra" shelter. Collaboration with the Regional Educational Directorates has always been productive in facilitating the procedures for registration or re-registration of victims in school, ensuring different documents needed for enrolment (documents for transfer from one school to another such as certificates, transcripts, etc.), etc. Furthermore, registration to and attendance of day-care, kindergartens or schools has been enabled for the children of beneficiaries as well.

During this 3 year period, mediation for school, kindergaden or day-care registration was conducted for 40 beneficiaries, respectively:

- 28 primary beneficiaries and 5 children of beneficiaries have been registered and have attended school;
- 4 children of beneficiaries have been registered and have attended kindergarten;
- 3 children of beneficiaries have been registered and have attended day-care.

The education of beneficiaries, whether primary or secondary, is followed up by the teacher of the shelter according to the educational and cultural-educational programmes. In this framework, the teacher accompanies children everyday to school, kindergarten and day-care, enables meetings with the respective teachers where they discuss on the progress, achievements and difficulties children face in acquiring new knowledge and concepts and she attends parent-teacher meetings. During the beneficiaries' residence in the shelter, the teacher monitors how the tasks assigned by teachers at school are performed, works on math tests with the beneficiaries based on the school programme and involves them in extracurricular reading.

Different educational and entertaining activities have been carried out with pre-schoolers, such as: play blocks, play doh works, drawing and colouring. Work with 1-3 years old children is focused on the development of their psychomotor skills, teaching them to retell, etc.

Establishing contacts with the family

One of the major challenges in the work with the victims of trafficking and domestic violence remains the establishment of contacts with their family of origin. Based on the experience of "Vatra", those beneficiaries having good relations with and the support of their family members, have a more successful reintegration. On the other hand, when victims of trafficking do not have the support of their family, they run a higher risk to be recycled in trafficking.

Mediation with the family of origin is evaluated since the very first two weeks of accommodation in the shelter and inclusion in the programme. The staff of "Vatra" excludes any contacts with the family only in those cases where there are suspects and evidence that family members have been implicated in the trafficking or violation of the beneficiary.

This important service is enabled and carried out by means of:

- conducting meetings between family members ant the beneficiaries at the offices of the centre;
- phone calls between them;
- counselling provided to the beneficiaries and family members by the social staff;
- discussions with the beneficiaries and family members regarding the programme services and their progress;
- safely returning to the family or to another alternative place.

Following the meetings and work of the social staff with the beneficiaries and their families, during this 3-year period, 66 beneficiaries (VoT/ PVoT) have returned to the family or have established contacts with their family members.

Vocational education

Vocational education has been considered as a very good opportunity to improve the low socio-economic status of target groups "Vatra" has been working with. The provision of this service is enabled in close collaboration with the Vocational Education and Training Centre in Vlora. "Vatra" has signed an agreement with this institution and has been collaborating with it for many years.

Over one year a total of 73 beneficiaries have been given the opportunity for vocational education as per the respective courses.

Specifically:

- In the hairdressing course 25 beneficiaries
- In the tailoring course 16 beneficiaries
- In the cooking course 19 beneficiaries
- In the computer course 3 beneficiaries

Additionally, 6 beneficiaries referred from the National Centre in Linza who completed the vocational course during their residence in this centre, received as a donation the basic professional tools after leaving the shelter to return to their family.

2. Mediation for employment

In order to provide this service, "Vatra" has been collaborating for many years with the Regional Employment Directorate in Vlora, but also with the Regional Employment Directorates in the districts where the beneficiaries come from. Moreover, the staff of "Vatra" keeps contacts with public and private institutions with a view to finding employment for the beneficiaries.

Over the last years, difficulties have been encountered in finding and keeping a stable job. Due to the economic crisis that the country is going through in the recent years, many private enterprises have been closed, thus leaving the beneficiaries unemployed. Therefore, in some cases we have mediated several times to find an adequate and stable job for the beneficiaries.

Overall, mediation was conducted for employment of 91 beneficiaries, out of which 56 have been employed. Respectively:

- 36 beneficiaries in tailoring enterprises;
- 6 beneficiaries in fast-food restaurants;
- 14 beneficiaries were employed as cooks, sales clerk in boutiques, cleaning ladies, workers in grocery stores, hairdressing assistants, Call Centre operators, laundry workers, etc.;

Semi-independent living / support with rented apartments

Semi-independent living is a service provided to the beneficiaries that do not have the support of their families, cannot be accommodated in their families or returning to the

place of origin constitutes a risk for them. The beneficiaries included in this category are accommodated in apartments, the rent of which is paid in the framework of the programme for 6 months (in specific cases even more). During the first month the basic living costs are covered as well, such as: food, detergents, electricity, water. This support is provided in order to support the beneficiary until she establishes the basis for independent living. During this time the beneficiary is followed-up by a social worker who is responsible for monitoring the cases accommodated in rented apartments.

A total of 24 beneficiaries have benefited from this service, out of which:

- 18 victims of trafficking / potential victims of trafficking;
- 6 victims of domestic violence.

Support with micro-businesses and their monitoring

Since 2009 up to the end of 2011, 10 victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking were supported with micro-business with the assistance of our donors such as the Norwegian Church Aid, World Vision and IOM.

Generally, the beneficiaries that run microbusinesses have shown progress. One of the positive indicators has been the family support, while a concern was the decline in the number of customers in specific periods due to the crisis (usually beauty saloons earn more during summer), high rents, taxes to be regularly paid in order to properly proceed with the microbusiness. Out of 10 microbusinesses established, 5 have been established in an additional room in the houses of the beneficiaries, thus reducing the rent costs.

While we monitor this process and see it as a positive opportunity for the sustainability of reintegration for former victims of trafficking, the staff of "Vatra" has always tried to find new opportunities from potential donors for the provision of microbusinesses. Therefore, at the beginning of 2012, 20 cases included in the long-term monitoring were evaluated for benefitting 5 microbusinesses supported by IOM, Tirana. Upon a careful evaluation carried out by the staff of "Vatra", 5 beneficiaries were selected to be supported with microbusiness. This selection was made based on the following criteria: family support, educational level, reintegration sustainability, personal skills for microbusiness management, etc.

Thus, in 2012 the following microbusinesses were established:

- 1 tailor's shop in Berat
- 1 boutique for selling used clothes in Kuçova
- 1 beauty saloon in Durrës
- 1 beauty saloon in Vlora
- 1 nail salon situated in one of the hair salons in Vlora

Thus, currently a total of 15 beneficiaries who have attended the long-term reintegration programme are running their microbusinesses, through which they generate income for covering the basic living costs.

3. Long-term monitoring

In the framework of the long-term reintegration process, the beneficiaries that have been treated in the centre with the services under the rehabilitation and reintegration programme, after leaving the centre and based on their will, are included in the long-term monitoring process which according to the standards approved by the MoLSAEO (now the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth) lasts from 3 to 5 years. Thus, 129 cases assisted in the shelter have been monitored during 2008-2010 timeframe. Monitoring is an important part of the work of "Vatra" staff, following up the services provided in parallel in the shelter and community through the counselling line. The process is carried out through direct meetings conducted in their families or other alternative places where the beneficiaries live independently, meetings at the offices of "Vatra", by telephone and online (especially for those cases outside the Albanian borders), meetings at their work places, etc.. Specifically:

- 78 cases have been directly monitored through meetings in their families.
- 51 cases have been monitored by telephone and online (Skype, email).

Current situation after the monitoring:

- 68% of cases have progressed
- 20% have severe psycho-social problems (they express the need for on-going support with services)
- 12% have had regress and are suspected to be recycled in trafficking.

SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE COUNSELLING OFFICES OF "VATRA"

1. Psycho-social assistance and counselling

The social worker has provided this service in the community, urban and rural areas, and not only for those cases coming at the offices of "Vatra", but also for cases that have been identified during the sensitization and awareness-raising activities in different areas of Vlora district.

First the social worker makes the identification and evaluation of the case needs, and then refers them to the respective specialists (psychologist, lawyer, medical doctor). If deemed that the beneficiary needs accommodation and if she herself asks for it, the social worker in collaboration with the coordinator of the shelter shall manage her accommodation in the shelter.

During 2011-2013, 211 cases have been identified and evaluated from the community, out of which 25 cases have been accommodated in the shelter.

Furthermore, the social worker carries out the registration of the beneficiaries in vocational courses, follows up their progress in the courses, mediates for employment and conducts long-term monitoring.

2. Psychological assistance and counselling

- *for women and girls/victims of domestic violence*

The psychologist of the centre has provided psychological counselling and support for women and girls in the community, victims of domestic violence. They have been referred to the psychologist by other staff members that have assisted the cases (social worker, lawyer, project coordinator), or by the community members themselves, that have had information on the services provided by "Vatra". Public institutions that "Vatra" centre collaborates with have also been a source of reference for the beneficiaries of these services.

Almost all the victims of violence have manifested various physiological and psychological problems, such as headaches, digestive disorders, anxiety disorders, depression, insecurities, low self-esteem and self-blame feelings. The counselling sessions have been focused on reducing the psychological discomforts of the beneficiaries and reaching the psycho-emotional balance. Work during counselling was focused on the identification of the feelings of the victims towards the abuse suffered, abuser and themselves, increase of self-esteem of the victims highlighting their strengths, empowerment of the victims so that they do not accept co-living with violence, guiding them towards the achievement of personal objectives and elimination of self-blame feelings.

- *For children, victims of domestic violence*

We have also provided psychological support to the children that have witnessed violence in their family, or that have been direct victims of violence. The problems that they have manifested were of emotional, psychological and behavioural character. The psychological intervention aimed at reducing the intensity and frequency of emotional and behavioural symptoms, providing the opportunity to the children to talk openly on the their experiences and fears, modifying the misperceptions that they may have created on abuse and violence, and teaching sound strategies on managing emotions and improvement of the social interactions of the child.

- *For men and boys*

Based on last year's experience, where violating men asked for the service of the psychologist as an attempt to improve their psychological situation and re-establish proper family relations, this service was also provided to this category during 2012 and also to men and boys from the community aiming to prevent the potential of being future violators. Taking into consideration the mentality, culture and the highly dominant character of Albanian men, especially those that exercise violence, obviously the number of those benefiting from this service is not very high.

A total of 60 men and boys with social problems received counselling, out of which 8 were violators. Work with this target group was aimed at improving the psychological condition of violators and re-establish sound family relations in order to avoid the repetition of future violent episodes. The objective of the counselling was to identify the causes of violence and anger (addressing violence as way to release anger), the consequences of violence on family members, and teach self-composure, communication and problem solution techniques.

Also, in collaboration with the Directorate of Economic Aid and Social Services in the Municipality of Vlora, 6 group sessions have been conducted with men and boys. This directorate has supported "Vatra" with the creating of two groups with men and boys, with whom the psychologist has conducted information sessions each month, addressing topics such as: "Consequences and forms of violence", "Consequences of domestic violence on the victims", "The cycle of domestic violence", "The law on measures against violence in family relations", "Sanctions against domestic violence stipulated in the Criminal Code", etc.

- *For minors at the Police*

Based on the request of the Police Directorate in Vlora, the psychologist has provided psychological counselling at the premises of this institution for underage boys detained by the police, who are exploited from other adults (parents, other family members or third persons) to commit criminal offences. The boys were mostly under 14, i.e., below the age to hold criminal responsibility, and their exploiters have used precisely this fact when including them in criminal offences.

Based on the considerations of the psychologist it was found that these children come from families with social problems, violent parents, families with severe economic problems, mainly from the rural and informal areas of the city.

3. Legal assistance and counselling

The legal service has been provided not only to the beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter, but also to women and girls from the community, victims of domestic violence.

The cases have been assisted in different institutions such as: The Court, Police, Prosecutor's Office, Bailiff's Office, Civil Registry Office, etc., as per their specifics.

During 2011-2013, a total of 240 victims of domestic violence have benefited legal assistance and counselling. The legal cases were mainly related to: obtaining the Protection Orders (30 Emergence Protection Orders and 24 Protection Orders), divorce, child custody, requesting an increase in the child support payments, completing the documents to obtain economic aid, registering children in the Civil Registry, executing court verdicts, etc.

4. Vocational education

Based on the collaboration agreement with the Regional Directorate of Vocational Education, "Vatra" Centre has enabled the registration of 32 girls and women in vocational courses, out of which 25 have completed the course and have been certified by the Directorate of Vocational Education, and 7 are still attending vocational education, respectively:

- 12 women and girls in the hairdressing course;
- 8 women and girls in the cooking course;
- 9 women and girls in the tailoring course;
- 3 girls in the computer course.

The necessary work tools to practice during the courses have been provided by "Vatra", and upon completion of the hairdressing and tailoring courses the beneficiaries that have demonstrated proficient skills have received the basic professional tools free of charge (sewing machine, hair dryer, comb and brushes, hairstyling equipment, etc).

5. Mediation for employment

An important service provided to the women and girls who are victims of domestic violence is mediation for employment. The social worker collaborates with the Regional Employment Office in Vlora and various private entities to find a stable and suitable job for the beneficiaries. There are many challenges and difficulties in this aspect, taking into consideration that many private entities have ended up closing and, on the other hand, the beneficiaries do not have the necessary qualifications which puts a limitation on the type of work they can do.

During 2011-2013 we have mediated for the employment of 139 beneficiaries, out of which 95 cases have been employed in different private enterprises.

Services for other Vulnerable Groups

In the framework of project activities implemented by "Vatra", other groups have been assisted with the abovementioned services such as: girls and women, men and boys (from the vulnerable strata) with other social problems (a total of 332 cases including children) such as: unemployment, critical financial situation, health problems, various legal problems, etc.

We have specifically provided support to:

- · 272 women and girls with social problems who have come to the centre and have received assistance as per the respective problems such as: mediation for employment, psychological assistance, legal counselling, etc.
- · 60 boys and men that have received psycho-social service, out of which 35 have been supported for vocational education at the Vocational Education and Training Centre in Vlora in plumbing and electrical technician courses. The staff has mediated for the employment of 25 men and boys.

OTHER PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING 2011-2013

The project: "Exchanging experiences among the organizations and institutions protecting the victims of human trafficking in the Region (Albania, Serbia)"

Funded by: Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation

Project period: May 15, 2013 - June 20, 2013

The study visit organized in Belgrade (Serbia) was made possible due to the financial support of our donor Kvinna Till Kvinna (with SIDA funds). This foundation has been supporting "Vatra" since 2003 and afterwards, not only in projects related to direct assistance, and awareness-raising activities but they have also financially supported projects for attending study visits (sharing experiences) in the country and region. Specifically, in 2005 the staff of "Vatra" attended a study visit in Kosovo, and Macedonia and in 2007 in Saranda, and finally in Serbia (Belgrade). The aim of these study visits is to share positive experiences between the organizations and institutions that work in the area of women's right protection and to create

Meeting with the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator

Meeting with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

opportunities for strengthening the collaboration of "Vatra" with the existing partners and expand partnership with other organizations and institutions as well.

In the 6-days study visit (May 26 - 31, 2013) in Belgrade (Serbia), apart from the staff of "Vatra" (5 persons), representatives from the Office of the National Anti-trafficking

Meeting with the Social Protection Centre

Meeting with "Atina" organization-

Coordinator, General Directorate of State Police and the State Social Service in Tirana were also invited to participate. All three institutions are part of the Responsible National Anti-trafficking Authority that, among others, technically operate with the institutions of the National Anti-trafficking Coalition for the solution of problems of victims of human trafficking or potential victims of trafficking.

"Atina" organization in Serbia, Belgrade, a partner of "Vatra" for more than 3 years, voluntarily supported "Vatra" with the arrangement of all the activities of this study visit, and specifically: defining together the agenda of the visit, providing information on the main anti-trafficking institutions in Serbia, contacting all the stakeholders and arranging meetings with them, facilitating the logistic activities, etc.

Meetings held during the study visit.

Meeting with "Atina" organization- An organization headquartered in Belgrade that works in the area of anti-trafficking and against any type of gender-based violence. The concrete collaboration with this organization started in 2012 in the framework of referral for repatriation and further assistance in Albania of a case, victim of human trafficking, who was assisted by this organization.

Among others, during the meeting with its director, we were informed regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in Serbia. "ATINA" and other organizations that worked in anti-trafficking provided support to the NRM but were not its members, differently from the Albanian NRM where 3 national NGOs and 3 international NGOs are signatory members. However, this fact had not impeded the collaboration between the NGOs and the state in identifying and referring the cases of the victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking. During the meeting, "Vatra" and the representatives of the Albanian state institutions provided information on the current situation of human trafficking in Albania, social policies, the Albanian

legislation and the existing services for victims of human trafficking in Albania. The respective issues defined in this meeting were also discussed.

Meeting with "ASTRA" organization. Indeed, "ASTRA" organization is not completely unknown to "Vatra". Both "Vatra" and "ASTRA" have attended several international events that have been held by different international organizations**.** During the meeting at this organization we observed and learned that the focus of their work was mainly towards preventing human trafficking and in some cases providing concrete assistance to the victims. "ASTRA" organization run the 24 hour HOTLINE helping victims of trafficking, and it conducted an intense information and awareness-raising campaign on this work (distributing leaflets, posters, notebooks, folders, bookmarkers, pens, etc., in the community). According to them this line was perfectly operational and many cases asked for direct help through the line, and there were also cases of reports from the community for the victims at risk of being trafficked. Whereas, in Albania the HOTLINE 0800 12 12 which is managed by the state is almost non-operational. Apart from "Vatra" there are other members of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters which report that none of the cases assisted in the shelters came as a result of the referral from the HOTLINE. All cases that "ASTRA" identified by means of the HOTLINE were assisted either by "ASTRA" itself with the respective specialists or in collaboration with other organizations and institutions in the country. Actually, when asked on the number of cases that were currently receiving assistance they did not provide any exact figures on this.

Meeting with the "Centre for youth integration": Apart from the offices this centre also managed a Drop-In Centre and a day care centre for street children. (the meeting was held at the Drop-In Centre)

Their work was focused on children and youth, and mainly on those in street situation and at risk of being trafficked, but they also provided help for their family members when necessary and when asked from them. Apart from the direct services that this centre provided for the children and youth at the Drop-In Centre or in the day care centre (such as basic services, food, clothing, medical assistance), daily social and cultural activities, recreational activities, education, psychological assistance, etc., the staff of the centre worked directly on the streets for a proactive identification of children at risk of being trafficked. The aim of the field work of this organization was to primarily give to marginalized groups the opportunity for access to services. In this framework the street team worked and made the proactive identification of victims at risk of being trafficked or potential victims of trafficking.

This indeed was a novelty for "Vatra" as in the framework of the joint project with IOM and NCATS the piloting of 3 mobile units will be carried out (one of them in Vlora, "Vatra", one in Tirana, D&E, and another one in Elbasan, "Tjetër Vizion"). This was precisely the focus of questions of the staff of "Vatra" for the CYI organization. Something considered as a positive practice was the fact that during their work on the streets CYI specialists were primarily focused on building trusting relationships between them and the children or youth in street situation, and then addressing them to the services that this centre or other NGOs and institutions provided to these target groups.

Meeting with the "Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit", Office of the

Deputy Prime Minister of the Government for European Integration, created in 2009. The Head of this Unit and two other members of this office attended this meeting. This Unit was established in order to strengthen Government capacities to develop and implement social inclusion policies based on good practices in Europe. Furthermore, the SIPRU provides support to the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration to coordinate, monitor and report on the efforts of the Government of Serbia in the field of social inclusion. The team of this Unit provided us information on the social policies of the Serbian Government for poverty reduction, the amount of economic aid, children allowance and the categories that benefitted them, etc. Moreover, we, and especially the Government representatives shared information regarding the National Strategy and Action Plan on Anti-trafficking 2011 - 2013, the standards for the identification and referral of VoT/PVoT, the standards for residential centres, legislation, etc. ***The representative of the ONATC gave them the SOP publication, which was something this institution appreciated saying that they would consider the possibility of using it as a template for the Government of Serbia.***

Meeting with the "AUTONOMUS Women Centre", a feminist organization established in 1993. The main activities of the AWC were as follows: direct assistance with women (psychological support and legal aid), cooperation with relevant institutions (educational and preventive activities), research work, policy analyses, campaigns for public opinion sensibility, coordination of national networks of women NGOs and participation in activities of international networks against violence against women.

Due to the specifics of its work, the meeting in this institution was focused on exchanging information on the work of each organization protecting the victims of violence and especially the victims of domestic violence. The specialists of "Vatra" and "AUTONOMUS" shared experiences on concrete cases, their management, contacting with other service providers, police, etc., in case of confrontations with the violators, etc. Furthermore, "Vatra" provided information on AWEN, its establishment, composition, mission, activity, etc. ***The "AUTONOMUS" organization was part of the "Women Against Violence" network and the coordinator of this network was currently from this organization (the coordinator is elected on rotation basis) and worked at the offices of "AUTONOMUS". Both parties were interested in establishing contacts between the two networks and the creating the opportunity of on-going collaboration in joint projects and activities.***

Meeting with the GIZ programme

GIZ is a German programme that is currently financially supporting "Vatra" through the Anti-trafficking program through the King Baoudouin Foundation. Among the offices in other countries, GIZ has a local office in Belgrade, Serbia. During the meeting in this institution our team was received by Ms. Stanislava Vidovic, Senior Project Manager, GIZ National Coordinator for Serbia, Ms. Katrin Adams, Senior Adviser and the Financial Officer of GIZ Program who provided us with information on their anti-trafficking programme.

Participation in the public discourse with institutions and NGOs, main anti-trafficking stakeholders, at the University of Belgrade. "Vatra" was invited in this event by the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator. Prior to the beginning of the event the movie "Sisters" was screened. *The movie was based on the story of two Serbian sisters*

who responded to an advertisement on Facebook, offering employment opportunities in Italy. Actually, they never went to Italy, but instead were exploited for forced labour (strippers) and prostitution. This story and the situation of the girls after exploitation was more or less similar to the story of hundreds of Albanian girls victims of trafficking that "Vatra" has assisted over the years. After the movie screening, to an audience mainly composed of students and professors, a discussion was opened between them and the different experts from public institutions, NGOs (among other "ATINA" as well) and the movie screenwriter. ***We considered this public discourse as a positive model to be used for awareness raising among youth in universities and schools.***

Meeting with the Social Protection Centre. Apart from the head of this institution the meeting was attended by the lawyer and psychologist who provided support to the groups in need, among others, to the victims of trafficking/potential victims or trafficking. This institution was similar to the Albanian State Social Service. The head of this institution explained that local social protection centres were operational in every region of Serbia. Unlike Albania, pursuant to the legislation into force these centres did not have access to the monitoring of services for the VoT/PVoT provided by NGOs as long as the latter were not licensed to provide these services, i.e., there was no law on licensing the services of NGOs. The licensing of the respective professions was under process, according to which each NGO shall employ specialists licensed by the Social Protection Centre. Also, we noticed that ***in Serbia there were no standards for residential centres for the victims of trafficking and those at risk of being trafficked, meanwhile in Albania these standards have been approved and are being implemented by the NGOs and public institutions since 2006.***

Meeting at the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator (at the Ministry of Interior) with the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator and other members of this office. The National Anti-trafficking Coordinator provided us information on the current situation of trafficking in the country, the anti-trafficking national policies, and efforts of the ONAC to prevent this phenomenon. According to the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, trafficking in human beings was still problematic for the Serbian government and the trend of the recent years showed that victims were mainly local, and internal trafficking was prevailing external trafficking. Currently, the Serbian government in close collaboration with the civil society, were drafting the 5-year National Anti-trafficking Strategy 2013-2017 and the 2-year National Action Plan 2013-2014. Indeed, according to "ATINA" organization, the state budget for 2013 was defined at the end of 2012 and this budget did not take into account the costs for the implementation of the National Anti-trafficking Action Plan 2013-2014. This is also obvious in the drafting of the Albanian national strategies and plans, which despite having clearly defined activities and goals, sometimes are not accompanied by the respective budgets, thus becoming inapplicable.

The positive aspect of the Office of the National Coordinator was that their work was mainly focused on the prevention of human trafficking and this was also confirmed during the meetings with other anti-trafficking institutions. This awareness-raising campaign consisted in the distribution of information through information meetings, public discourse, distribution of various publications on the issue of trafficking, etc., in the community, young people at school and university, etc. The movie "Sisters" was produced by the Ministry of Interior, Office of

the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and with the financial support of the European Commission and IOM. The fact that the government was focused on preventing human trafficking was quite positive, whereas in Albania this is left only in the hands of civil society organizations and international organizations, with the government only participating or supporting the organization of awareness-raising campaigns, but never being an initiator.

Participation in the NGO fair, Belgrade. Our delegation took part in this fair and there we visited the stands of all the participant organizations, such as: "ATINA" Organization, the Organization for the Protection of People with Disabilities, Organization for Environmental Protection, Organization for the Protection of Human Rights of Lesbians/LGBT, etc. In the framework of solidarity and support for vulnerable groups, the delegation members bought different materials and souvenirs, the income of which were used to support these groups.

Interview with "Gazeta Jonë" newspaper. The Executive Director, Mrs Brikena Puka, accepted the invitation of "ATINA" organization to give an interview for this newspaper. During the interview, information was provided on the study visit, its goal, the impressions from the visit, the situation of trafficking in Albania, etc.

The final meeting with "ATINA". During this meeting "Vatra" expressed their special appreciation to the "ATINA" organization for the proper organization, punctuality, accurate arrangement of the meetings, accommodation, transportation and everything else related to the visit. Moreover, every representative of the delegation of "Vatra" and the public institutions expressed their appreciation on the visit in general.

The directors of both organizations discussed on the possibility of on-going collaboration not only among the organizations themselves, but to extend this collaboration further between the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters in Albania and the Network of Anti-trafficking Shelters in Serbia. The director of "ATINA" proposed the sharing of the Regulation of the NCATS with this organization so that they could use it as a template for their network. Likewise, we prepared the grounds and discussed on the possibility to jointly apply for EU projects.

The project: "Social enterprise as a self-sustaining tool for the Albanian people"

Funded by: The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Development Cooperation.

Implemented by COL'OR, Italy, in collaboration with "Tjetër Vizion", Elbasan, "Hapat e Lehtë", Shkodër, COL'OR, Tirana and "Vatra".

Implementation period: May 2012 - June 2013

In the framework of the project "Social enterprise as a self-sustaining tool for the Albanian people", in September 2012, "Vatra" Centre established the social enterprise (industrial laundry), funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Development Cooperation. This enterprise was established based on a business plan drafted by experts of the area since the beginning of the project in May 2012.

The social enterprise established in the framework of this project was considered as an opportunity to generate income for the organization, and to increase its sustainability based on the income that would be generated.

Upon selecting the location where the laundry would be established, we started working to furnish it with all the necessary equipment for the delivery of the project. Apart from the management staff, three beneficiaries assisted by "Vatra", two former victims of trafficking and a victim of domestic violence, were employed in the laundry aiming their social and economic empowerment.

After selecting the laundry workers, we contracted an external specialist who provided training to the staff on: customer communication etiquette, record keeping, the use of equipment, detergents and how to handle fabrics. Meanwhile, the staff has worked for advertising the laundry by contacting with hotels, restaurants, individuals and by distributing leaflets in the city of Vlora.

After gaining knowledge through the training, the staff began working and generating income that, despite not being very high, have been deposited in the bank account of the organization, and will be used for necessary expenses to the benefit of the activities and services of the organization.

Challenges: pursuant to the Albanian legislation, non-profit organizations are registered and considered by the Tax Authorities as a large business and, upon starting an economic activity, the latter shall pay the same tax duties as private (large) businesses, despite that the income will be used to support the activities and services of the organization and not for individual benefit. Despite the efforts of the project staff to register the activity with the Tax Authorities, based on the analysis on the profit generated by this activity, it resulted that after paying taxes, with the project termination, no sufficient income was left to pay the laundry staff.

In this context the Board of Directors of "Vatra" made the decision to find other alternatives and methods to generate income from the investment. Currently, we are considering the option of renting the equipment so that the income can be used for covering some of the operational costs of the organization.

"VATRA" CONTRIBUTION IN BUILDING THE CAPACITIES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND NGO-s

"Vatra" has held several trainings with representatives of public and non-public institutions responsible in anti-trafficking and violence in the framework of implementing the programme of assistance for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and victims of violence during 2011-2013. These trainings have been held in order to inform and raise awareness among these structures for the effective implementation of the legislation and national policies on anti-trafficking and violence. The experts of "Vatra" have also contributed with their expertise in these areas and in the trainings held by international and national organizations.

Specifically:

- January 27, 2011 - Training with representatives of the police, court, prosecution office in Vlora. The training was on "Strengthening assistance for victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking". 27 persons participated in this training.
- January 28, 2011 - 35 teachers, psychologists and sociologists of primary and secondary schools in Vlora district participated in the training on: "Identification and protection of victims of trafficking and at risk of being trafficked".
- **February 2011 and March 2011,** Experts of "Vatra" Centre have been included by IOM and the Ministry of Interior to provide their expertise in the trainings with the topic "Capacity building of local structures on the identification, referral, assistance and case management in the community; and also to improve and increase the coordination and cooperation between partners at local and central level." in Vlora. The participants in the trainings were: In February 2011: journalists from different local media, printed and visual media of the Region of Southern Albania; and in March 2011 the training was attended by the social workers of Regional Offices of the Social Service of the Southern District.
- **April 4-5, 2012**. A 2-days training in Vlora with prosecutors and officers from the state police on: "Theoretical and practical aspects on trafficking in human beings and the legal practice". This training was organized by IOM in collaboration with the School of Magistrates, Police Training Department. 20 prosecutors and police officers participated in this training and "Vatra" participated as a trainer on behalf of the NCATS.
- **May 14, 2012**. Training for local coordinators of World Vision International Organization with the topic: "Human Trafficking. The National Anti-trafficking Mechanisms. Protection and assistance for the children of victims of human trafficking or at risk of being trafficked". 17 persons participated in this training. This training was organized by World Vision Organization and the experts of "Vatra" were contracted by this organization to conduct the training.
- **June 21, 2012**. Training with specialists and assistant specialists of the Department of Fight Against Trafficking and the Department of Investigation and Prevention of Crimes.

The topic of the training was: "Introduction to the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims/Potential Victims of Trafficking and their effective implementation". This training was carried out in collaboration with the Regional Police Directorate in Vlora, with a view to building capacities for improving the identification, needs assessment and support with services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking, potential victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence. This training was funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation.

- **October 2012**. A training was held in October with 24 teachers and psychologists of primary and secondary schools of Vlora district with the topic: "Social and legal aspects of domestic violence".
- May 23, 2013 – training with teachers, psychologists and sociologists of primary and secondary schools in Fier. The topic of the training was: "Identification and protection of victims of trafficking, at risk of being trafficked and victims of domestic violence". 32 participants attended this training.

- **October 17, 2013**. Training with specialists and assistant specialists of the Department of Fight Against Trafficking and the Department of Investigation and Prevention of Crimes of the Regional Directorate. The topic of the training was: "Introduction to the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims/Potential Victims of Trafficking, and their effective implementation". This training was carried out in collaboration with the Regional Police Directorate in Fier, with a view to building capacities for improving the identification, needs assessment and support with services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking, potential victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence. This training was funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation.
- October 14, 2013 – training with the social administrators of the municipalities and communes of Vlora district on: "Social and legal aspects of domestic violence". 29 persons participated in the training.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF "VATRA" WITH INPUTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TIP REPORT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION PROGRESS REPORT.

Apart from the abovementioned, as one of the key stakeholders in the anti-trafficking actions in Albania, "Vatra" has contributed each year by providing inputs and recommendations for the TIP Report of the U.S. Department of State and the EU Progress Report. (With the financial support of Kvinna till Kvinna, "Vatra" has participated for two years in 2011-2012 in the consultative meetings on the Progress Report organized by the European Union in Brussels). Many of the inputs and recommendations of "Vatra" have been taken into consideration and have been appreciated, and some of them have been reflected in the reports of the U.S. State Department and European Union.

CAPACITY-BUILDING OF "VATRA" STAFF

Capacity-building and skill improvement of its service and management staff represent one of "Vatra" priorities. Many training sessions from external experts but also from "Vatra" internal experts have been conducted.

In line with the amendments to the Albanian legislation and national policies on anti-trafficking and against gender-based violence, the need arises for staff to become acquainted with these amendments and for their training as regards their implementation. Specifically during 2011-2013: Standard Operating Procedures for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking (July 2011) were approved, the National Referral Mechanism Agreement for victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking was reviewed and endorsed (June 2012), there have been some amendments to the Albanian legislation as regards trafficking in human beings and domestic violence (inclusion of internal trafficking in the Criminal Code, increase of sanctions against traffickers (2013), inclusion of domestic violence in the Criminal Code, March 2012) etc.. "Vatra" experts have trained all the staff regarding any of the above amendments to the national legislation and policies. Similarly, the financial staff and project coordinators have become acquainted with the amendments to the fiscal legislation and were trained by external financial experts.

Apart from the trainings organized by the organization for its own staff, "Vatra" gives also priority to the staff involvement in trainings, workshops and other activities organized by the Albanian Government, or national and international organisations.

Specifically:

- January 11-12, 2011- participation in the Conference with the topic: "United against women abuse and for the protection of women's rights", organized under the auspices of the Speaker of the Parliament, Mrs Jozefina Topalli, in Tirana;
- January 31, 2011- participation in Meeting on the General Situation of the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings, in Albania, organized by the Group of Experts of the European Council on the Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), in Tirana;
- February 7- 8, 2011- participation in the Regional Conference with topic "United for the prevention and cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings in Western Balkans", organized by EU, in Ohrid, Macedonia;
- February 16-17, 2011- participation as representative of NCATS in the meetings on SOPs monitoring, organized by the Ministry of Interior and funded by IOM Tirana, in Thessaloniki, Greece;
- April 5-7, 2011 - participation in the Consultative Meeting between NGOs for the "Development of the European NGOs Platform against trafficking, exploitation and slavery ENPATES", organized by On the Road, Italy and La Strada International, in Rome, Italy;

- April 19, 2011- participation in the Forum with the topic "Child protection, an issue of concern for everyone. The role of health care institutions in child protection", organized by BKTF Coalition and World Vision in Vlora;
- April 20-22, 2011- participation in the Conference on Domestic Violence, organized by OPDAT and the American Embassy, Office of Foreign Affairs, in Tirana;
- May 18-19, 2011- participation in the workshop with the topic "Together in sharing experience between professionals", organized by USAID and IOM, in Tirana;
- June 8-9, 2011 - participation in the International Round Table with the topic "Fight against trafficking in human beings in South-East Europe and Black Sea Region. Identification of trafficked persons - National Referral Mechanism - Migration", organized by the European Union, BSM Programme and Ariadne Network, in Athens, Greece;
- June 23, 2011- participation in the Meeting with National Referral Mechanism (NRM) members, members of the Responsible Authority (RA) and focal points, organized by the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator (ONAC), in Tirana;
- September 4-10, 2011– participation in a study visit with topic "Women involvement in decision-making and politics", organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- September 22-23, 2011- participation in a 2-days training with the topic "Improvement of human rights protection mechanisms in the fight against discrimination", organized by Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS), in Tirana;
- September 23, 2011–participation in the meeting with the topic "Children's rights and welfare - a common issue", organized by the Albanian Children Alliance/Observatory for Children's Rights and UNICEF Albania in cooperation with Children's Rights Unit of Vlora region, in Vlora;
- September 29, 2011– participation in the meeting with members of the NRM for reviewing the cooperation agreement on NRM operation with victims/potential victims of trafficking, organized by the Ministry of Interior, in Tirana;
- October 6, 2011- participation in the Solemn Conference with the topic "Albania-US Relations/Building the future", organized by the Embassy of USA, in Tirana;
- October 18, 2011– participation in the awareness-raising activity with the topic "Involvement of local mechanisms in child protection and exploitation prevention" organized by BKTF, Ministry of Interior and Municipality of Tirana, in Tirana;
- October 18, 2011– participation in the awareness-raising activity with the topic "Children should not be exploited for labour", organized by BKTF, Ministry of Interior, Tirana Regional Anti-trafficking Committee and World Vision, in Tirana;
- November 2, 2011- participation in the training on the introduction to the fiscal legislation for the non-profit sector in Albania, organized by Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS), in Tirana;
- November 2-3, 2011 - participation in the training related to the financial guidance to NGOs, organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Vlora;

- November 11 - 13, 2011 - participation in Freja Forum and presentation with topic: "AWEN, supporting social and economic empowerment of Albanian women" organized by AWEN with the support of Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Tirana;
- November 21, 2011 - participation in the training on the implementation of the law "On Protection from Discrimination in the Educational System in Vlora", organized by the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, UNICEF, EUIC, in Vlora;
- December 6-9, 2011 – participation in the workshop with the topic "Leadership Platform and Organisational Work", organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Montenegro;
- December 9, 2011 – participation in the National Conference with the topic "Domestic violence is a crime! Violence-Free Family – Peaceful Society!", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) with the support of European Council and United Nations, in Tirana;
- December 12-15, 2011 – participation in the training with the topic "Assistance to victims/witnesses in the criminal justice system. Rights and services granted to victims/witnesses", organised by the American Embassy and OPDAT, in Tirana;
- December 19, 2011 - participation in the press conference with the topic "Monitoring the implementation of the action plan on the fight against corruption 2010", organized by Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS) and the Institute for Democracy and Intermediation, in Tirana;
- February 21, 2012 – March 11, 2012, participation in the study visit in the USA with the topic "Women empower women against domestic violence", organized and funded by U.S. Department of State;
- March 1-2, 2012 – participation in the two-days training related to the Standard Operating Procedures for victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, organized by the Ministry of Interior and IOM, in Vlora;
- March 20-21, 2012 – participation in the training with the topic "Best practices in managing the database related to victims of trafficking and the practices on database use and trafficking related data analysis" organized by IOM, in Tirana;
- May 21-26, 2012 - participation in the Presentation of Inputs for the European Union Progress Report 2012, organized and funded by Foundation Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Brussels;
- May 23, 2012 - participation in the workshop with the topic: "Drafting the protocol for the assistance to victims of trafficking", organized by IOM, in Tirana;
- May 24, 2012 - participation in the seminar with the topic "Training of "difficult" beneficiaries, assessment of risk to themselves and others, supervision for self and others" organized by IOM, in Tirana;
- Jun 15, 2012 - participation in the Signing Ceremony of National Referral Mechanism for victims/potential victims, organized by the Ministry of Interior, in Tirana;
- October 2-4, 2012 - participation in the TVRP Partners Meeting and the Regional Workshop with the topic "Reintegration of trafficked children in Western Balkans", organized by King Baodouin Foundation and GIZ, in Montenegro;

- October 9-13, 2012 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Activism and leadership of young women", organized and funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Montenegro;
- October 18, 2012 - participation in the activity on the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, organized by the Ministry of Interior, NCATS, IOM, Prefecture of Tirana Region, University of Tirana, in Tirana;
- November 8-9, 2012 – participation in the AWEN Network Meeting, organized and funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Istanbul;
- November 9-11, 2012 – participation in FREJA FORUM with the topic "Equal Opportunities, Democracy and Social Innovation", organized and funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Istanbul;
- November 9-11, 2012 – participation in the training with the topic "Use of role-play as a tool for women empowerment", organized and funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Prizren, Kosovo;
- November 13-14, 2012 – participation in the General Assembly and Final Conference of European NGOs Platform Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery (ENPATES), organized by Associazione On the Road, in Italy;
- December 5, 2012- participation in the workshop with the topic "Cooperation between Civil Society and Business Community in the fight against Trafficking in Persons", organized by IOM and NCATS, in Tirana;
- December 6, 2012 - participation in the round table with the topic "Protection and observance of children's rights in Albania. Identification and addressing of violence against children - Successes and challenges", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and BKTF Coalition, in Tirana;
- December 10, 2012 – participation in the National Conference with the topic "Violence is a crime! Act now! A real man never hurts a woman", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, UNDP, TRUST FUND, etc., in Tirana;
- December 10-16, 2012 - participation in the ILGA World Conference, organized and funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Stockholm, Sweden;
- January 14, 2013 - participation in the Introductory Meeting with NPOs operating in the area of gender equality and fighting violence against women and domestic violence, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in Tirana;
- January 17, 2013- participation in the meeting of the Focus Group and the Swedish Evaluation Team, contracted by the Swedish Embassy in Tirana with the stakeholders of democratic governance and human rights sector, organized by the Swedish Embassy, in Tirana;
- January 18, 2013 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Results-based management approach as a reporting tool", organized by KTK, in Tirana;
- February 18, 2013 - participation in the meeting between ODIHR, OSCE presence in Albania and NGOs, on the role of NGOs in the fight against hate crime and discrimination in Albania, organized by ODIHR/OSCE, in Tirana;

- February 19, 2013 - participation in the seminar with the topic "Best practices in preventing trafficking in persons in Albania", organized by IOM in cooperation with ONAC, in Tirana;
- February 27, 2013 - participation in the round table with the topic "Assessment of costs related to the ratification of EC Convention on gender based violence", organized by "Refleksione" Association and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities with the support of UN Women and Swedish Embassy, in Tirana;
- March 12, 2013 - participation in the meeting with the topic "Community reintegration services for victims of trafficking in Albania", organized by ONAC in cooperation with IOM, in Tirana;
- March 15, 2013 - participation to the presentation of the first report on social enterprises in Albania, organized by Albanian Forum of Social Enterprises, in Tirana;
- March 18-20, 2013 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Integrated security", organized by Kvinna till Kvinna, in Korça;
- March 25, 2013 - participation in the conference with the topic "Just European Union", organized by Delegation of European Union to Albania, in Tirana;
- March 28, 2013 - participation in the consultative meeting on the 2013 Progress Report, organized by the Delegation of European Union to Albania, in Tirana;
- April 17, 2013 - participation in the seminar with the topic "Identification, sequestration and seizure of assets derived from trafficking in persons", organized by the Ministry of Interior (ONAC) and OSCE Presence in Albania, in Tirana;
- April 23, 2013 - participation in the training with the topic "Legal and institutional framework for the implementation of social inclusion policies, for the protection of children's rights", organized by State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, UNICEF, Centre of Integrated Social Services and Regional Council of Vlora, in Vlora;
- April 29, 2013 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Social Enterprise Incubators" organized by COL'OR, HUB Milano, in Tirana;
- April 30, 2013 - participation in the national workshop with the topic "Migration management in Albania, new political foresights", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the International Organization for Migration, in Tirana;
- May 8, 2013 - participation in the training with health care service providers for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, organized by IOM and NCATS, in Tirana;
- June 10, 2013 - participation in the training with the topic "Law enforcement and the judiciary" with judges and prosecutors, organized by IOM, in Tirana;
- June 12, 2013 - participation in the BKTF Conference in the framework of International Day for the elimination of Violence against Children with the topic "Child employment hurts, abuses, denies childhood! Stop to forced labour!", organized by BKTF Coalition and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in Tirana;

- June 25-27, 2013 - participation in the second part of the workshop with the topic "Integrated security", organized by Kvinna till Kvinna, in Llogara, Vlora;
- July 4, 2013 - participation in the training with the topic "Proactive identification and referral of victims of trafficking, and cases of labour exploitation", organized by IOM in cooperation with NCATS, in Tirana;
- July 9-10, 2013 - participation in the training with the topic "Fiscal legislation", organized by AWEN, in Tirana;
- August 8-19, 2013 - participation in the annual international training (Ninth Year) with the topic "Leadership". A Global Forum of Generations, organized by UNESCO and University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut, USA;
- August 24, 2013 - participation in the meeting on the introduction to measures that may be taken to support the drafting of the working plan pursuant to the Joint Instruction No. 125, dated 23/08/2012 "On the protection of rights of children, who are exposed to various forms of abuse", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in Tirana;
- September 12-15, 2013 - participation in the Pitch Wise Festival 2013, with topic "Art and women activism", organized by Cure Foundation, in Bosnia & Herzegovina;
- September 23-24, 2013 - participation in the Annual Meeting of TVRP Partners (Trafficking Victims Re/integration Programme), organized by King Baudouin Foundation and GIZ, in Bosnia & Herzegovina;
- September 25-26, 2013 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Establishing partnerships. Sustainable Social Services", organized by King Baudouin Foundation and GIZ, in Bosnia & Herzegovina.
- October 19, 2013 - participation in the European Anti-Trafficking Day with topic "Stop Trafficking! Together we can do more", organized by the Ministry of Interior and ONAC, in Tirana;
- October 22-24, 2013 - participation in the meeting with the topic "Fundraising, Self-funding of NGOs and Advocacy Strategies", organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Tirana;
- November 11, 2013 - participation in the meeting of the Task Force and the Responsible Anti-trafficking Authority, organized by
- ONAC, in Tirana;
- November 11-13, 2013 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Strategies and skills for engaging men and boys in the prevention of gender based violence", organized by UN Agencies (UNDP, UNFPA & UN Women), in Tirana;
- November 21-22, 2013 - participation in the Regional Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution. Swedish and Balkans experiences, organized by the Swedish Institute and Swedish Embassy in Tirana, in Zagreb, Croatia;
- December 3–4, 2013 - participation in the training with the topic "Anti-Corruption", organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Tirana;

- December 5-7, 2013 - participation in the workshop with the topic "Integrated Security and Staff Well-being", organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Budva, Montenegro;
- December 6, 2013 - participation in the National Conference with topic "Boys and men, part of the solution – Demonstrate that you are against violence!", organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, in Tirana;
- December 11-13, 2013 - participation in the training with the topic "Result-based management", organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Durrës;
- December 12, 2013 - participation in the meeting with the topic "The role of women and youth in the fight against corruption", organized by the Minister of State for Local Government and National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, as well as the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth with the support of UNDP, in Tirana;

THREE YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT/ PROJECTS, DONORS, FUNDING AND EXPENSES 2011- 2013

Donor	No	Project	Period	Currency	Budget	Total Incomes	Expenses	Difference
The Sigrid Rausing TRUST	1	"Direct support for the social and economic empowerment of the girls and women victims of trafficking, at risk to be trafficked and domestic violence victims."	November 2010 - December 2013	EUR	**89258,64**	**89268,15**	**89254,33**	**13,82**
Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation	1	"Direct assistance for victims of trafficking and domestic violence".	1 January 2011- 30 June 2011	EUR	**21320**	**21720**	**21723,15**	**3,15**
	2	"Direct assistance for the social and economic empowerment of victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence".	1 March 2012- 31 December 2013	EUR	**67485**	**67492**	**67476,75**	**15,25**
	3	"Exchange of experience between the organizations and institutions on the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in the Region(Albania,Serbia)"	15 May- 31 December 2013	EUR	**7420**	**7420**	**7420**	**0**
Open Society Foundation for Albania - SOROS	1	**"Direct assistance for women and girls, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, those at risk to be trafficked for their rehabilitation and reintegration in the social life".**	1 July 2010 - 31 July 2011	USD	**25000**	**25000**	**24989,69**	**10,31**
	2	"Direct support for the rehabilitation, reintegration and economic and social empowerment of women and girls victims of domestic violence and human trafficking".	1 September 2011- 11 April 2012	USD	**9900**	**9900**	**9899,90**	**0,10**
	3	"Capacity building of local institutions and strengthening of assistance for the victims of human trafficking and domestic violence"	1 September 2012 - 31 May 2013	USD	**17000**	**17000**	**17001,31**	**1,31**
U.S Embassy, Tirana (Small Grants Program)	1	"Monitoring of the local government institutions for the implementation of the law"On measures against violence in family relationships" and informing of public opinion to prevent family crime".	September 2010-June 2011	USD	**19000**	**19000**	**18999,34**	**0,66**

	2	"Awareness raisinng campaign to sensitize the community of the rural areas on the risk that domestic violence represents and provision of social services for women and girls victims of domestic violence in Vlora District"	1 September 2012 - 31 August 2013	USD	**23990**	**23990**	**23989,75**	**0,25**
U.S State Department (through the U.S Embassy, Tirana)		"Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former victims of trafficking and domestic violence".	25 September 2012- 31 December 2013	USD	**50000**	**50000**	**49999,56**	**0,44**
International Organization for Migration IOM (with USAID funds)	1	"Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former Albanian victims of trafficking"..	1 October 2010 - 31 August 2011	ALL	**7300000**	**7300000**	**7299976,52**	**23,48**
	2	"Follow on Anti-trafficking Efforts-Strengthening Albanian Anti-trafficking Capacities".	1 January 2012 - 30 September 2012	ALL	**1.134.000**	**1.134.000**	**1.134.000**	**0**
	3	"Informed contact with sensitive informed community Police.	20 November 2012- 20 February 2013	ALL	**1590000**	**1590000**	**1582915**	**7,085**
IOM (with U.S State Department funds)	4	"Provide direct assistance to Victims of Trafficking"	1 December 2012- 31 August 2014	ALL	**10070000**	**3021000**	**2942056**	**78944**
World Bank	1	"Awareness raising campaign to sensitize the public opinion about the risk gender discrimination and domestic violence represent"	1 September 2011- 31 January 2012	USD	**5500**	**5500**	**5501,81**	**1,81**
Austrian Development Cooperation		"Support for the basic needs for victims of trafficking and domestic violence in shelter and counselling centre of Vatra"	1 February-30 July 2012	EUR	**10000**	**10000**	**10000**	**0**
Counseling Line for Women and Girls (with SOROS Foundation funds)	1	"Strengthening service delivery for survivors of gender-based violence in Albania"	1 March 2011- 29 February 2012	USD	**13250**	**10200**	**10200**	**0**

UN Voluntary TRUST Fund	1	"Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former victimes of trafficking".	1 January - 31 December 2013	USD	**15000**	**15000**	**14924,82**	**74,79**
King Baudouin Foundation	1	"Direct assistance for the economic and social empowerment of victims and potential victims of trafficking for a successful reintegration in social life"	1 January 2012 - 30 June 2013	EUR	**30000**	**30000**	**29996,16**	**3,84**
	2	"Direct assistance for the economic and social empowerment of victims and potential victims of trafficking for a successful reintegration in social life"	1 October 2013- 30 June 2015	EUR	**30000**	**22500**	**700**	**21800**
Swedish Support to MoI/ASP on Community Policing		Strengthening cooperation between Police and youth to prevent and reduce trafficking in persons"	15 November 2013- 31 January 2014	EUR	**4660**	**4660**	**4570,78**	**89,22**
Vlora Municipality (funds of MOLSAEO)	1	Support for victims of trafficking (food)	April - May 2011	ALL	**0**	**63000**	**63000**	**0**
Vlora Municipality	2	"To make a reality the implementation of the law"On measures against violence in family relationships".	January 2011- December mber 2013	ALL	**0**	**274583**	**274583**	**0**
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Italian Cooperation for Development		Social Enterprise- Instrument of selfsupport of the Albanian Population - First phase	May 2012- June 2013	EUR	**66930**	**63165**	**63165**	**0**

CONCLUSION

AUDIT CERTIFICATE

We have audited the accounts of "Vatra" Psycho- Social Centre" regarding the project "Direct assistance for victims of trafficking, those at risk to be trafficked and victims of domestic violence", KTK Ref. no. 2011/ALB051201 Vatra financed by "Kvinna till Kvinna" for the periodJanuary 01, 2011 to June 30, 2011, in amount 27,723.15 EUR.

The audit has been performed in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards and in accordance with the audit instructions from Kvinna till Kvinna. The auditing standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the accounts and reports are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used as well as evaluating the overall presentation of information in the accounts.

The accounts and financial report have been prepared in accordance with the conditions in the agreement, including the budget, between Kvinna till Kvinna and "Association for Women with Social Problems" and with the Financial Guidelines from Kvinna till Kvinna currently in force. The reports and accounts give a fair view of the organisations financial position and results of operations in accordance with generally accepted auditing principles in Albania.

We have examined the internal control systems governing the operation of the organization. In our opinion, the internal procedures and controls set up for the proper management of the project during the period covered by the audit operated satisfactorily, were in accordance with the legal/contractual basis of the project and provided for the prevention and detection of errors, irregularities and fraud.

In my opinion the project funds covered by this audit have been used in accordance with the legal/contractual basis.

My audit has not given any reasons for complaints and I hereby recommend that the report is approved by Kvinna till Kvinna.

Tatjana FILTO

Engagement Partner

Inter BBK Auditing sh p k.

July 27th, 2011

AUDITING SH.P.K. INTER B.B.K TIRANA - ALBANIA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

To: **Brikena PUKA**

Executive Director of
"Vatra" Psycho- Social Centre"
Vlora, Albania

We have audited the Final Financial Report of "Vatra" Psycho- Social Centre" regarding the project "Direct assistance for the social and economic empowerment of victims of domestic violence ", KBF Agreement no. 2012 – H11000 - 001. Vatra is financed by "King Baudouin Foundation" for the period January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, in amount EUR 30,000.00.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with KBF instructions for financial reporting and for the internal control which management deems necessary to prepare a financial report which is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud and error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (with the application of ISA 800/805). Those standards require that we follow with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.
An audit involves executing various measures to obtain audit evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The auditor selects the measures to be executed by, among other things, assessing the risks of risk of material misstatement in the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In conducting this risk assessments, the auditor considers the elements of internal control which are relevant for the manner in which the organization prepares the financial report, in order to formulate auditing measures which are appropriate under the circumstances, but not with the objective of presenting an opinion regarding the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and their application by Management and significant estimates made by Management when preparing the financial report as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that audit evidence we have obtained comprises sufficient and appropriate supporting documentation for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report corresponds, in all materials aspects, with the organisation's accounts and agreed budget and provides, in all materials aspects, a true and fair view of the project in accordance with KBF Audit Instructions for financial reporting.

My audit has not given any reasons for complaints and I hereby recommend that the report is approved by KBF.

Basis for the report and delimitation of dissemination

Without it qualifying our opinion, we would like to call attention to the fact that the financial report has been prepared in accordance with instructions stipulated by KBF. The financial report has been prepared by Vatra Psycho- Social Centre Vlora – Albania for the purpose of fulfilling a requirement imposed by KBF.

Therefore, the report is not likely to be suitable for any other purpose. Our Report is intended only for Vatra Psycho- Social Centre Vlora – Albania or KBF and should not be distributed to any party other than Vatra Psycho- Social Centre Vlora – Albania or KBF.

Esmeralda Balluku

Engagement Partner

July 22th, 2013

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