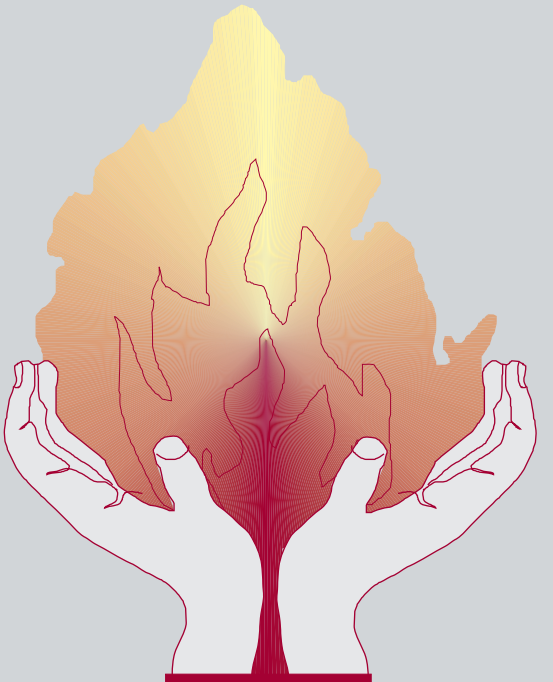
Psycho-Social Center
VATRA



THE GIRLS AND THE TRAFFICKING

Study on trafficking in human beings
Projects realised during 2006

Financial support by NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

Psycho - Social Center Vatra

ANNUAL STUDY REPORT 2006

Study on trafficking in human beings

Projects realised during 2006

Vlore 2007

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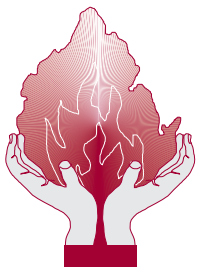


4

THANKS

2006 was a successful year for Vatra, not only for the good results achieved during the projects' implementation in community, but also for the fact that Vatra carried out its activity even in the field of public information.

Already its three centres have become part of the community life by contributing in: its awareness for the risks the street phenomena present; offering social services for women and girls in need; as well as giving the diversified information about the citizens asking it.

Vatra's development and strengthening from one year to the other, as well as the results achieved, are contribution of the work full of devotion and sacrifice of Vatra's staff, the Board, volunteers; as well as the supporting partners in the successful realisation of its mission.
Thanks and gratidude for our Donors: Norwegian Church Aid, Kvina till Kvinna, Sigrid Rousing Trust, Coordinated Action against Human Trafficking (CAAHT), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), who evaluating Vatra's work stood close and supported it finacially.

I particularly thank the Organization Norwegian Church Aid as our main donor from 2004, which enables the publishing of this study report.
Considering the importance of this publication for the information given concerning the development of human being trafficking in the country and the work done by Vatra during 2006, we hope that this study report serves the State Institutions, National Organizations, civil society and the community we work with.

Vera Lesko
Executive Director

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRE

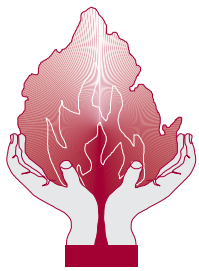
Vatra centre has a professional and very functional organisational structure in the fields it operates.

Considering the trafficking in human beings to be a worrying problem to the society and country, Vatra already has built important centres, which hold various activities in order to sensitize the opinion in the country to the risk this phenomenon presents. Vatra's contribution in the fight against human being trafficking has been evident and very important influencing directly the soothing of this phenomenon, and this has been evaluated by Albanian government, national and international organizations as well.

Vatra organization is strengthened and developed from one year to the other by presenting itself with three institutions operating in these fields:

- Prevention of human being trafficking
- Informing the public
- Shelter offering social services for the victims of trafficking

Vatra is led by a Board consisting of five experts of different fields: lawyers, pedagogues, economists. It has a professional staff of 22 specialists such as: social workers, psychologist, jurist, doctor, economist, translator, nurse etc; as well as 12 volunteers, who are daily committed to its activities.



ORGANIGRAME OF THE CENTER “VATRA”

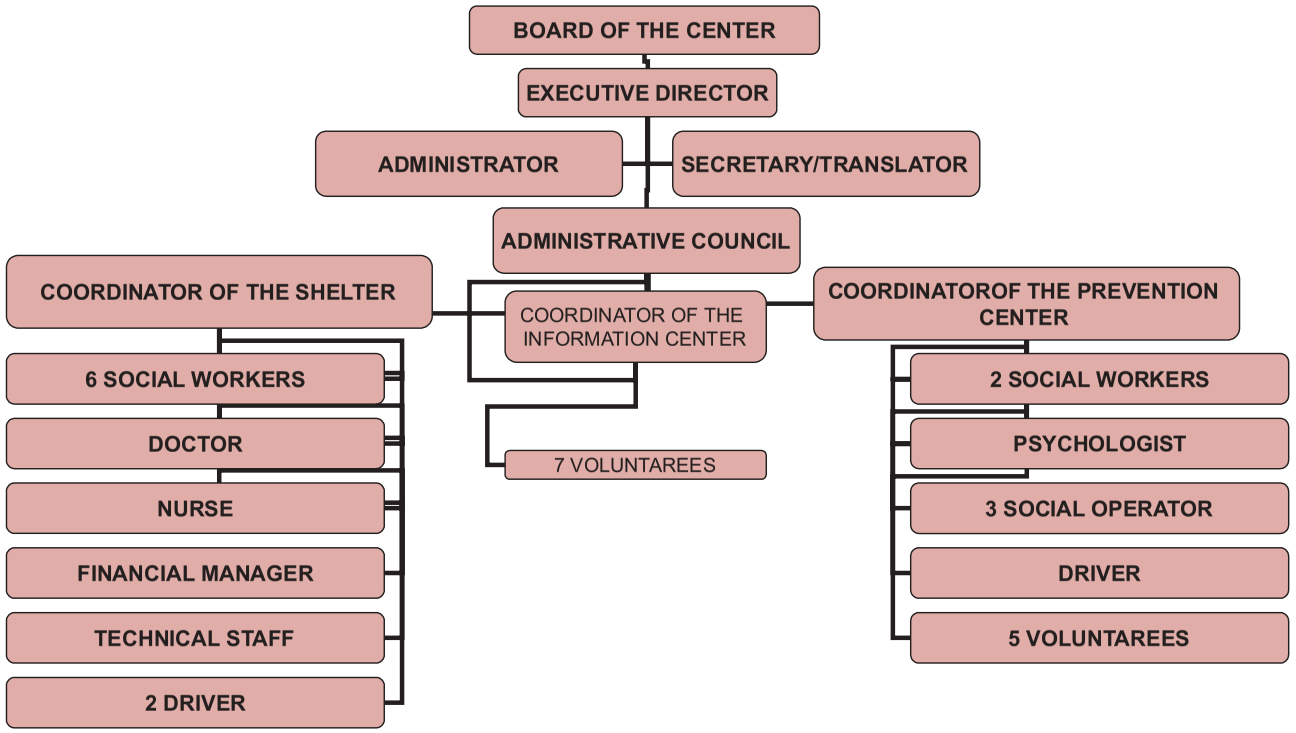


Photo of prevention staff

Photo of shelter's staff

Photo of information office (volunteers)

SITUATION OF HUMAN BEING TRAFFICKING DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY FOR 2006

According to the TIP report of American State Department for 2006, Albania remained again in the second Tier where are included countries, which continue to have problems with the development of illegal trafficking. In this report Albania is ranked as a transit and origin country of this phenomenon.
The situation presented in the report is related directly with political, economical and social factors of the country, which have influenced in the development of human being trafficking during this year.

Despite the measures taken and the work done by the Albanian Government in the framework of National Anti trafficking Strategy implementation, this phenomenon and its development even for this year have remained a concern.

The new changes made by the government during 2006 in anti-trafficking structures, having new and not qualified employees who were untrained before, made the fight against human being trafficking incomplete and ineffective. This phenomenon is developed particularly in the land border points between Albania and Greece, Macedonia and Kosovo; where groups of people continue to leave the country for various economical needs. Similarly, other clandestine groups, seized by the Greek Police and the Police of EC countries are continually repatriated to Albania.

A quite concerning phenomenon for our country is internal trafficking, which is developed by the exploitation of women and girls in daily prostitution. Consequently, the problems emerged are numerous. It needs time and continual work not only on state institutions' part, but also by NGOs in order to implement the measures taken to fight and prevent the development of human being trafficking in the country.

Socio-economical conditions continue to remain difficult. Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe. Unemployment, Albanian families' poverty, particularly marked in rural areas, remain the main reasons for the involvement of women and girls in prostitution. In search of any employment possibility to support family or survive, they often fall into the trap of criminal elements, which lead illegal trafficking and exploit them into prostitution.

The Albanian society continues to still bear the patriarchal and conservator mentality inherited from the past. Similarly, microsocial factors, family type and characteristics remain main factors, which determine women and girls' involvement in human being trafficking. Women and children continue to suffer domestic violence and maltreatment, regardless the laws for their protection, the state and society appear indifferent toward this phenomenon.

During the year 2006 the economical and social situation in the country did not improve the state of trafficked women and girls. Under such circumstances, Vatra continues to carefully treat all the problems this phenomenon generates, making them object of its work, not only with state institutions but also with the work with the community and particularly with the victims of this phenomenon.
Based on the data and facts resulted while interviewing the victims accommodated in the shelter and outside it; as well as from the analysis of the phenomenon in the country, we have drawn the conclusion that the situation of human being trafficking evolution for 2006 was developed in these forms:

1. Girls' and women trafficking and their exploitation in EC countries.
2. Recycling the victims in trafficking.
3. Internal trafficking.

In order to give wider and more accurate information on the development of the phenomenon during this year, we are giving the data for each of its constituent elements, which stimulate the development of human being trafficking.

During 2006, 210 trafficked, at risk, violated and clandestine women and girls were accommodated and treated by Vatra's staff. Even though Vatra shelter accommodates and treats girls involved in trafficking for prostitution exploitation, based on the agreements we have with Southern Albanian district police, we treat all cases referred by these police stations that often are not properly identified in the border points they enter after being deported by EC countries. Thus, during interviewing and filling in the documentation Vatra uses to exactly identify the trafficked victims, it resulted that:

- 102 trafficked women and girls, have been accommodated in the shelter for the first time.
- 21 trafficked women and girls, accommodated more than once.
- 38 endangred girls
- 28 clandestine women
- 11 children accompanied by their mothers
- 10 violated women

Though few in number, the violated women are treated in the shelter for quite a short time, till the staff makes contacts with other organizations that treat violated women in order to put up and treat them in specialist shelters(with which we have cooperating agreements).

Also, clandestine women are treated for a short time in the shelter for the fact that they are women who go to join their spouses, or other family members for economical, health needs etc.

What the staff evaluates during their treatments, is the fact that these women and girls despite aims, are involved in the same networks of human trafficking. Even for this kind of target group functions the same constituent elements, such as agents, transporters, shelterers, routes, points of staying, escorts etc; what distinguishes them is their form of exploitation. It is this target group (men, women and children), who because of economical reasons emigrate from Albania to different countries of European Community, keeping alive the trafficking of human beings.

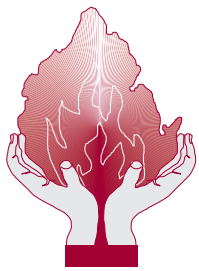
This group of beneficiaries are given complete information about the phenomenon of human being trafficking so that they are sensitized to the risk the phenomenon posess. This way they can analyse themselves their situation and choose the best way to follow.

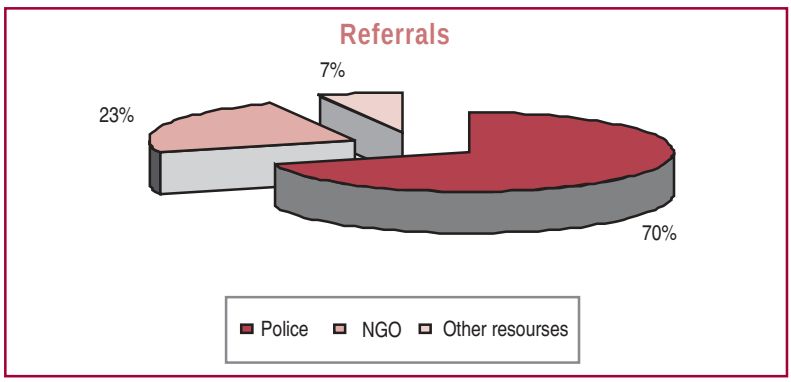
Referrals

Vatra based on the agreements it has with District Police Directorates of Vlora, Fieri, Berati, Gjirokastra etc, accommodates not only the cases referred by these Police stations, but also the other cases referred by sources such as NGOs, Shelters, Family members, Local Institutions, Public Prosecutor's Offices, and Courts etc.

Thus, from 210 accommodated women and girls are referred:

- **From District Police:**
  Vlora, Fieri, Berati, Elbasani, Tirana **147 women and girls**
- **From NGOs** **49 women and girls**
- **From other sources** **14 women and girls**





Even though the police are the main institution dealing with the phenomenon of human being trafficking, the fact should be emphasised that during last years the number of NGOs working in the field of prevention has increased considerably, influencing thus the soothing of this phenomenon. As seen in the above data, NGOs and other institutions have increased considerably the cooperation with Vatra in relation to referrals made giving the chance to victims to be treated and included in the reintegration program.

Repatriation

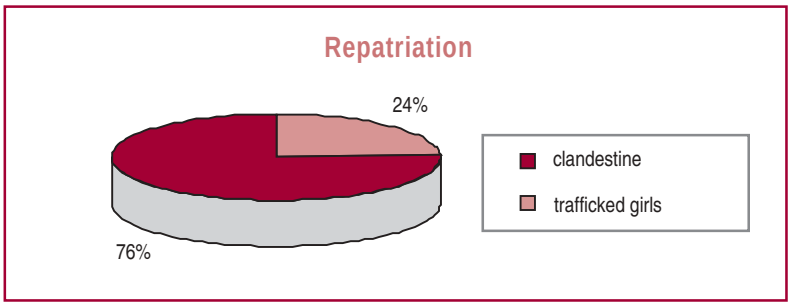
Many Europian countries which are countries of destination of the phenomenon continue to repatriate trafficked victims based on the signed agreements between Albanian government and the government of EC countries. Everyday from the border points beetween Albania and Greece, but even other countries are returned men, women, girls and children, who even though accompanied by policemen do not possess any identifying papers. They are human beings, no one knows where they are caught, what have they done and why are repatriated. Nobody speaks, reacts, even though they are protected in relation to the execution of human rights in Convents, Declarations or various International Agreements. Similarly the victims accommodated in the Shelter, show that they are not supported by the police of the countries where they are seized.

They are not given any information concerning their rights and return procedures. They are not contacted either by social workers and psychologists, nor is it tried to see if they are at risk to be retrafficked. In the most of the cases, the persons contacted are police employees who do nothing but provide their transportation back to Albania. The fact should be emphasized that although countries of destination are included in the fight against human being trafficking, the standards of return and identification of potential victims are not met.

During this year 117 women and girls were repatriated from EC countries. All the cases are referred by District Police that Vatra covers. This shows that the collaboration with these institutions continues to be effective and priority not only for Vatra but also for the Police stations of these counties.

From 117 women and girls repatriated from EC states it results that:

- **28 clandestine women**
- **89 trafficked girls and women**

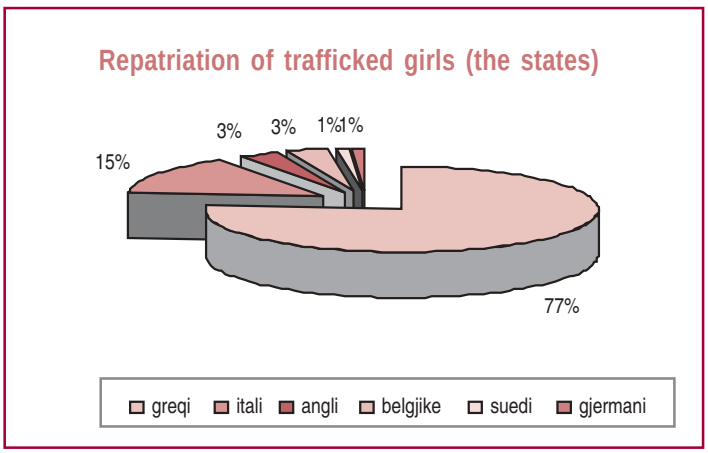


Clandestine women are deported from these countries:

- **Greece 26 women**
- **Italy 2 women**

Trafficked girls and women are deported from these countries:

- Greece 68 women and girls
- Italy 13 women and girls
- England 3 girls
- Belgium 3 girls
- Sweden 1 girl
- Germany 1 girl



As seen in the above tables, Greece continues to remain the state with the highest number of deported persons. Similarly, Greece remains the only country that repatriates all emigrants without any accompaining paper.

Internal trafficking

The phenomenon of internal trafficking continues to remain untreated and not forcefully stricken by state institutions and more concretely the police. In such circumstances this hidden phenomenon continues to be developed by traffickers and persons with penal precedents, who through exploitation of women and girls in daily prostitution make huge profit.

The Police have referred 21 women and girls, who are seized while daily

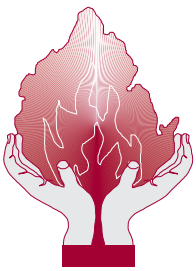
prostituting in the hotels of Tirana, Vlora, Fieri, Gjirokastra and Durresi. 2 cases are referred by Organisations and Local Institutions of Vlora.

If we refer to the cases of women and girls seized by the police while exercising daily prostitution, we see that their number is inconsiderable in comparison with the number of trafficked victims exploited in different EC countries.

In fact, it is quite the contrary. While interviewing all the girls deported from countries of EC, they have confessed of being exploited in prostitution in big cities, or even in those cities that are situated close to land border with Greece, Macedonia, and Kosovo. What impedes the police to seize these girls is that they admit exercising prostitution, especially the women above 20 years old who say that they have the right to live the way they want. This is the fact that makes difficult striking this phenomenon when it is known that no matter how these women consider exercising prostitution, they always have an agent, pimp, shelterer, transporter etc, that altogether create a pure network exploiting people through illegal trafficking. Seen in this viewpoint, Vatra has 3 years that continues to make present its worries concerning the measures this phenomenon is taking, asking continually state institutions to take their responsibilities and seeing with priority to take the measures to strike and combat this form of human being trafficking.

Victims' recycling in trafficking

With reference to this element, it is important to emphasize the fact that recycling victims in trafficking is closely related to their repatriation from EC countries. The repatriated girls and women having once arrived in Albania seek to go back again to the countries where they have been deported. In search of a trafficker, pimp, agent etc, the victims do nothing but help traffickers to include them in their networks.



Being consequence of this phenomenon, the women and girls included in trafficking remain for many years, slaves of their traffickers, who sell and buy, exploit them again and again in prostitution, denying their human right: **to live free.**

Victims' recycling in trafficking several times is becoming a dangerous phenomenon that keeps alive not only illegal trafficking development, but also has brought sharp social problems for the victims and the community where they live.

From 123 trafficked women and girls, during 2006, 45 % of them have been recycled in trafficking more than twice.

What attracts our attention concerning this phenomenon is the fact that in the shelter are accommodated girls, who within a month have left the country and were deported from Greece more than twice, marked this especially among girls, who come from areas of Gramshi, Berati, Kucova and Lushnja villages. This fact shows that there still exist numerous agents, traffickers, and transporters, who put into movement the network of clandestine trafficking using land border points.

These traffickers exploit socio-economical problems of the victims and their families. They are acquainted to the mentality of the community of these areas and are presented to victims as "rescuers" of the situation the girls are found. This way the helpless victims named as the "shame" of family and society, are retrafficked inside or outside the country cutting the connections with the reality where they live.

It is important to emphasize that striking this phenomenon is realized only when state institutions and particularly the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Equal Chances compiles social policies to enter all repatriated women and girls in real reintegration programs. During this year, Vatra

only supported with social services, 56 victims trafficked and recycled more than once.

Routes

When interviewed girls have confessed to have left Albania illegally. In the majority of the identified cases the main way to reach the countries of destination is crossing the border without papers, paying agents, or leaving the land border in groups. Kakavi is the main border point where **79 victims have confessed being accompained beyond the border by some persons and paid them after arriving in the destination**. Further, these victims stay in Greece, or go to other countries of EC with forged papers.

Other land points the victims cross are:

Albania-Macedonia-Greece and EC countries.

- Saranda - Qafe Bote – Greece
- Permeti - Tre Urat - Greece
- Pogradec – Macedonia - Greece.
- Gjirokastër – Kakavijë - Greece

Similarly, there are identified some cases of girls and women who have left the country through Vlora sea-border as well as Durres seaport. These victims were supplied with papers.

Another way encountered rarely is crossing the border with proper documentation through air transport from Rinas to countries of destination. Since Vatra extends its activity in Southern Albania, is obvious that even the victims it works with are from these areas. The victims accommodated have confessed that border points they have used either in group or individually were:

- Gjirokaster – Kakavije - Greece 37 women and girls
- Kapshtice – Macedonia – Greece 7 women and girls
- Sarande – Qaf Bote – Greece 16 women and girls
- Permet - Tri Urat - Greece 2 girls
- Vlora port - Italy 8 women and girls
- Durresi port - Italy 1 girl
- Rinas Airport - Italy 4 girls
- Pogradec - Qaf Thanë – Macedonia - Greece 4 girls

Who are victims' traffickers or pimps?

Traffickers and exploiters are people with normal outer appearance, normal behaviour, promising and very camouflaged. They belong to national and international networks of organized crime. These traffickers have low educational level, come from problematic families, are well acquainted to socio-economic situation of the victims and know to take advantage of the cases. Similarly, they may have connections with people possessing power, so their forms of trafficking become easier. They know quite well the routes of phenomenon's development.

Traffickers are individual exploiters, who are not included in such groups, but exploit their girlfriends or wives in prostitution. They are violent persons, parasitic and have learned suitable family models.

Traffickers may raise networks for the exploitation of victims inside the country, including hotel and motel proprietors and sharing profits with them.

Even though all of them are identified by the police as persons dealing with illegal trafficking, only a few of them are confronted to law. Similarly, having not denounced and arrested the traffickers has come as a result of not executing the law for witness' protection, which has continually decreased the number of trafficked girls who denounce their ex-

ploiters. Even during this year only **5 victims** accommodated in our shelter from **123 who were accommodated, coollaborated with the police and initiated judicial processes.** Even though the Albanian government has passed laws for emigration, trafficking in human beings, as well as witness protection law, their implementation leaves much to desire.

The protection the government offers for the trafficked victims is insufficient. Often they are confronted not only with the indifference of law institutions, prolongation of legal processes, but in many cases with their obstruction. The fact that during 2005, 3 victims were killed in Albania and the same in other EC countries such as Italy, England etc, (information given by TV news of these countries), clearly shows the execution of these laws for the girls victims of human being trafficking.
In relation to this fact, while interviewing the victims, they confessed that their traffickers are powerful, because they have links with important people in politics.

Therefore they are powerful even economically, because the money earned from victims' exploitation were used to built hotels, restaurants, apartments, or they have those money in the banks of EC ountries. They have also confessed that their pimps often are even traffickers or drug distributors in various countries of EC; therefore, they are afraid to denounce.

OTHER ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE PHENOMENON

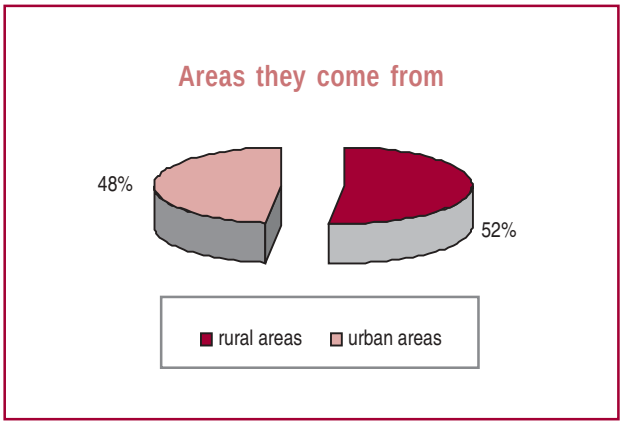
Below we are analysing other additional elements of the phenomenon about 102 traficked girls and women accommodated for the first time in the shelter during the year 2006.

Areas they come from

It should be said that more tangible by this phenomenon are the victims coming from rural areas because the possibility to inform the community is smaller. Similarly, victims of these areas, who have migrated in big urban areas and because of the impossibility to adapt to living, fall into the trap of trafficking.

For 2006 are accommodated in the shelter:

- **53** girls and women coming from **rural areas**
- **49** girls and women coming from **urban areas**.



Counties they come from:

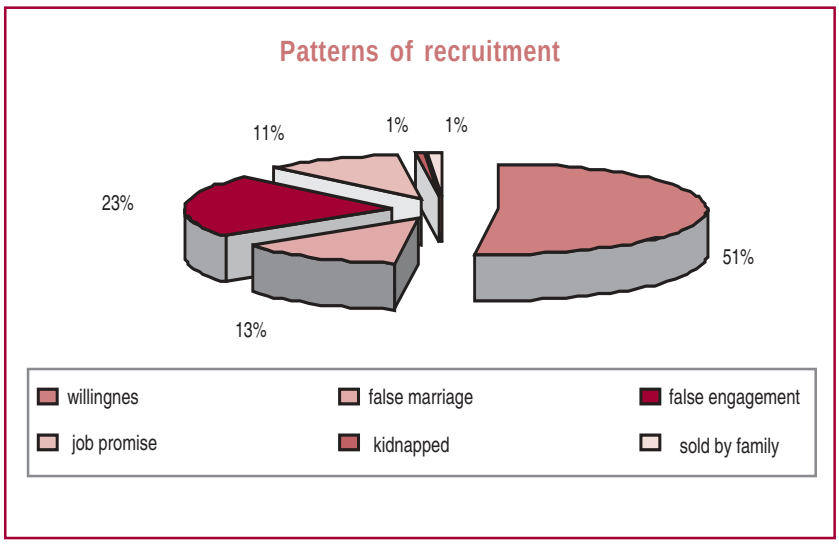
Vlora	18	Tirana	5
Elbasani	8	Durrës	2
Skrapar	2	Lushnja	15
Berati	8	Kavaja	1
Saranda	1	Burrel	1
Gjirokastër	1	Lezha	2
Fieri	30	Gramshi	2
Laçi	1	Ballsh	1
Kukës	2	Tepelena	2

As seen from the table, in Southern Albania the areas of Fieri, Vlora and Lushnja remain source areas of this phenomenon.

Ways of recruitment

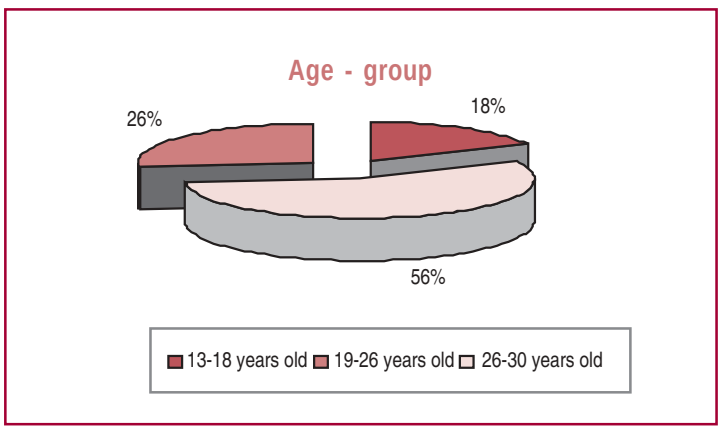
For 2006 the main ways of victims' recruitment identified by our centre, continue to remain: willingly and through false engagements. **53 victims have confessed that are willingly recruited due to family and economical problems** considering this as a chance to escape the situation they find themselves. Similarly, traffickers continue to use false engagements and marriages for the victims coming from less informed areas concerning the phenomenon, or where family continues to be based according to its patriarchal functioning. For the year 2006, in this target group are identified **23 victims recruited by false engagements** and **13 through false marriages**.

Other ways identified are various promises to be employed abroad without knowing the destined job. As such are identified 11 victims. **One victim has confessed** that **has been kidnapped by traffickers, while another has confessed being sold by family.**



Age-group

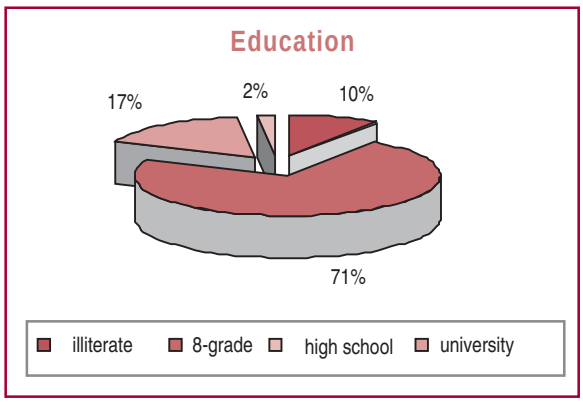
13 - 18 years old	18 girls
19- 25 years old	57 women and girls
26- 30 years old	27 women and girls



Traffickers continue to include in their networks victims coming from families with great economical difficulties, families which have family conflicts and lack male figure. Similarly tangible are minor victims, who abandon school and are exposed to street negative phenomena.

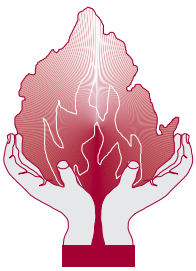
Education

illiterate	10 girls and women
8 - grade	73 girls and women
High school	17 girls and women
university	2 girls



As seen in the analysis made to the elements of human being trafficking, Albania apart from being transit country continues to remain country of origin of this phenomenon.

- 102 women and girls victims of trafficking, accommodated for the first time were identified during 2006



- 56 of them confessed that are recycled more than twice in trafficking.
- 23 women and girls are trafficked and exploited within the country.

Thus even this year the trafficking in human beings in Albania was developed in these forms:

1. The trafficking of women and girls and their exploitation in EC countries
2. Recycling the victims in trafficking
3. Internal trafficking

VATRA SHELTER

Main activities held in the shelter in framework of rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victims.

Rehabilitation

Trafficked victims accommodated in the shelter have severe health problems. Their psycho-emotional situation is severe, problem of personality and vision for the future. A lot of them are contracted by sexually transmitted diseases and are physically destroyed. Because of sexual abuse and alcohol use, smoking and using various drugs their outer appearance is in contrast with their age.

During this year 94 cases were treated by specialist doctors suffering from: patological, gynaecological, nefrologycal, stomatologycal, mental health, infectious diseases, etc. health problems. 24 victims were contracted by sexually transmitted diseases and other 4 by hepatitis B.

Psychological counselling, in groups and individually

Under the care of the psychologist, **63** trafficked victims are treated and have attended individual therapy sessions.

Similarly, there are held 96 counseling sessions in group, which enabled victims' releasing from the sense of imputation for what has happened to them.

Legal counselling according to the case

Under the assistance and defense of the Center's lawyer, 27 women and girls having property problems, divorce, child tutorship, etc. have received legal counselling and defence.

Also the judicial sessions of 5 victims accompanied by their lawyer have been attended; these victims had denounced their pimps.

Group discussions, information about victims, daily activities within the shelter

The social group shows care for the realisation of activities within the shelter held by the beneficients themselves considering them as effective therapies helping their rehabilitation.

Among the activities organized in the Shelter were: self care and treatment care for shelter's premises, working the shelter's garden, computing learning course, birthday celebrations, foreign languages, teaching the Abc book to illiterate girls etc.

Similarly, talks in groups are held with the girls, in which they discuss topics of their own suggestion.

Making contacts with families

One of the most important activities of the project is making contacts and victims' union with family, because of the importance this process for their normal reintegration. Thus, from **210** women and girls accommodated in the shelter**, 167 women and girls have joined their families.** Even though the girls leave the shelter, the staff continues to keep relations with them. They pay visits to the victims' families in order to help them solving the problems they may face.

Family counselling for the victims and family members

Apart from psycho emotional counselling in group, the girls receive in the shelter this service is offered to their families as well in the areas where they live. Thus, during these 12 months, **120** families heave been

treated. **45** families have accepted to cooperate with Vatra's staff to closely follow the girls' treatment and reintegrate them in normal life of society.

Socio-cultural and entertaining activities

Socio-cultural and entertaining activities are part of girls' inclusion in various visits and games, in order to release their psycho-emotional stress and raising the moral values to understand that all of them are part of this society and should be reintegrated in it. During this year **12 socio-cultural activities** were held in Vlora and other cities of the country.

Case referral in other shelters

For Vatra the cooperation with other organisations is very important activity for the very fact that the victims accommodated in the shelter have other possibilities of choice for their inclusion in reintegration programs offered to these organizations in various cities of the country they operate.

Vatra's staff during this year worked not only to strengthen the cooperation with existing partners but also tried to find new partners, who would make possible the development of Vatra's activities in the areas outside its jurisdiction. The collaboration with Gjirokaster Community Centre, which manages a centre in the South of Albania, influenced the increase of victims' number referred by this organisation; victims that are treated by Vatra.

- Referred from Gjirokaster Community Center to *Vatra*
  37 girls
- From Vatra to the Shelter "Different and Equal"
  3 girls
- From Vatra organization to Another Vision
  1 girl

- From the organization Advisory Center for women and girls in *Durres* to Vatra

  5 girls
- From the Catholic Church, Vlore to Vatra

  1 girl
- From Vatra to Linza Hosting Center

  1 girl (Rumanian)
- From Dea Organization to Vatra

  4 girls
- From Murialdo Centre in Fier to Vatra

  1 girl
- From Korca Woman Centre to Vatra

  1 girl

REINTEGRATION

Reintegration of trafficked women and girls in the normal life of society is a long and difficult process. It is long because the reintegration program lasts from 1 year to 3 years, it is difficult because the victims of this phenomenon come from very poor families, with low educational level, violated and psychologically destroyed, due to illtreatment and exploitation of their traffickers, pimps and clients in prostitution. These and other problems the victims' bear make difficult the staff's work in the inclusion of high numbers of women and girls in the reintegration programs.

Every accommodated girl is given the possibility to profit from individual projects such as training possibility, education, employment, sheltering, safe protection etc, by providing these programs even in family.

Professional courses and education

Preparation in educational professional courses for the girls accommodated in the shelter is achieved in collaboration with the Centre of Professional Formation as well as other (licensed) Esthetic centres in Vlora city.

During this period:

- **13 girls finished tailoring courses and received certificate.**
- **12 girls finished hairdressing courses and received certificate.**
- **5 girls are attending tailoring course.**
- **5 girls are attending hairdressing course.**
- **4 girls have finished computing course and received certificate.**

On the basis of the agreements signed with the Regional Educational Directorates of some counties **is enabled the registration and correspondence high school attendance** for all the girls willing to attend it. **During this year 2 girls are registered and attended correspondence high school and 1 girl attends the 9-year system.**

Employment

In cooperation with the Centre of Professional Formation and the Regional Employment Office in Vlore, was made possible the employment of **33 profiteers accommodated** in the Shelter. Similarly **2 girls** were employed close to Esthetic Centres (where the girls attend hairdressing courses). **One girl** works in Prevention Centre as a social worker.

World Vision Organization, in the framework of cooperation with Vatra has employed as social operators **two of the grils accommodated** in the shelter. In total, for the year 2006, **Vatra made possible the employment of 38 women and girls included in human being trafficking.**

Rental apartment

As one of the main elements of reintegration program package from the year 2004 continues to be successfully realised even the independent living of vicitims in rental apartments**. During this year 7 girls were sheltered in apartment**, three of them finished the program and created their independent life in community.

PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION

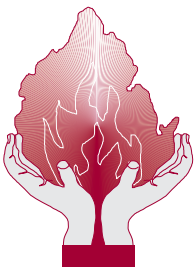
Vatra centre offers direct assistance for the victims and from 1999 onwards it works even in the field of human being trafficking prevention. This activity consists in the development of sensitizing campaigns with young people of 9-grade schools, high schools and university, women and girls, as well as with the community in general in rural areas of Vlora, Fieri, Lushnja, etc. From the year 2004, our work in this field is focused concretely on Roma and Egyptian communities, as the most risked communities from the phenomenon of trafficking. These communities being situated mostly in rural areas, Vatra has strengthened the collaboration with communes and municipalities of these areas, particularly with Vlora Prefecture, Novosela, Llakatundi and Risili communes, as well as with Fieri Prefecture in Levani commune, Municipalities of Roskoveci and Patosi. Vatra has collaborated with local authorities to convey not only the problems concerning these communities but together we have helped the registration of roma children in registry office, offering teaching about illiterate children, professional courses for trafficked women and girls and those at risk, their supply with sewing machines, hairdressing tool kits, as well as food aids for the families in need.

Project '' Awareness campaign among young people, girls and women about the risk of trafficking in human beings and further reintegration of the trafficked victims ''

1 June 2005 – 31 July 2006,
Financed by CAAHT with USAID funds

Aim of the project

Sensitizing the youth of high schools in Vlora, Fieri as well as from the areas of Roskovec, Patos, Novosela and Levan, on the risk the traffick-



ing in human beings presents; and to help further rehabilitation and reintegration for trafficked women and girls of these counties.

Objectives

1. Sensitizing the youth through giving the collected information on human being trafficking and the measures that should be taken to protect them from this trafficking.
2. To identify and help the girls and women included in trafficking and those at risk.
3. To document the number of women and girls included in trafficking in Vlora and Fieri counties in order to create an accurate database.
4. To make contacts with local authorities of the counties Vlora, Fieri, and their communes in order to create the possibilities for employment and sheltering of the victims included in the trafficking of human beings.
5. To reduce the negative psychological consequences of families and victims of trafficking and the young at risk from this phenomenon.

Areas included in the project

- Vlora
- Llakatundi
- Rilsili
- Novosela
- Fieri
- Patosi
- Levani
- Roskoveci

Activities held during January – July 2006:

- **Educational sessions with the secondary school students** in the areas included in the project.
- **Trainings with women** of these areas**.**
- **Seminars with community.**
- **Radio talks**
- **TV talks**
- **Leaflets publications**
- **Informative bulletins**
- **Hairdressing and tailoring courses with the victims of human being trafficking.**
- **Other activities**

Groups worked with:

- High school students, University.
- Egyptian and Roma women and girls.
- Trafficked girls and women and those at risk.

Educational sessions with the youth

Based on the signed agreements Vatra has with Educational Directorate in Vlora, Fier and Lushnje, is made possible the development of educational sessions with the young of secondary schools and University, in the areas included in this project.

This year Vatra's staff prepared an educational program with 12 topics about human being trafficking, which will be included in the curricula of city's secondary schools.

250 sessions with the students are held where took part more than **1264 youngsters.** These sessions aimed at making the students **communicate openly, getting informed on the risks street phenomena**

present, as well as to give concrete solutions to themselves from them.

Photos form sessions with the young

Educational sessions with women and girls

135 **educational sessions were realised**, in which took part more than **157 women and girls from the areas of Llakatund, Risili, Novosele, Levan, Roskovec and Patos.** In these sessions is created a favourable terrain, where the women and girls feel encouraged to be included in the

debate to freely express their thoughts as well as to bring concrete examples and information related to the phenomenon we treat from the areas they live in.

Photos from women and gilrs- educational sessions

Seminars with community

6 seminars are realized in the Municipalities of Fier, Patos, and Roskovec as well as in the communes of Llakatund, Risili, Novosela and Levan. Participants in these activities were representatives from Local Authorities, State Institutions, and NGOs, the youth and other members of the community in general.

Seminars were activities in which various topics were treated with actual problems that concern the community of these areas. In these seminars participated around 500 persons.

Photo from seminars

Radio and TV talks

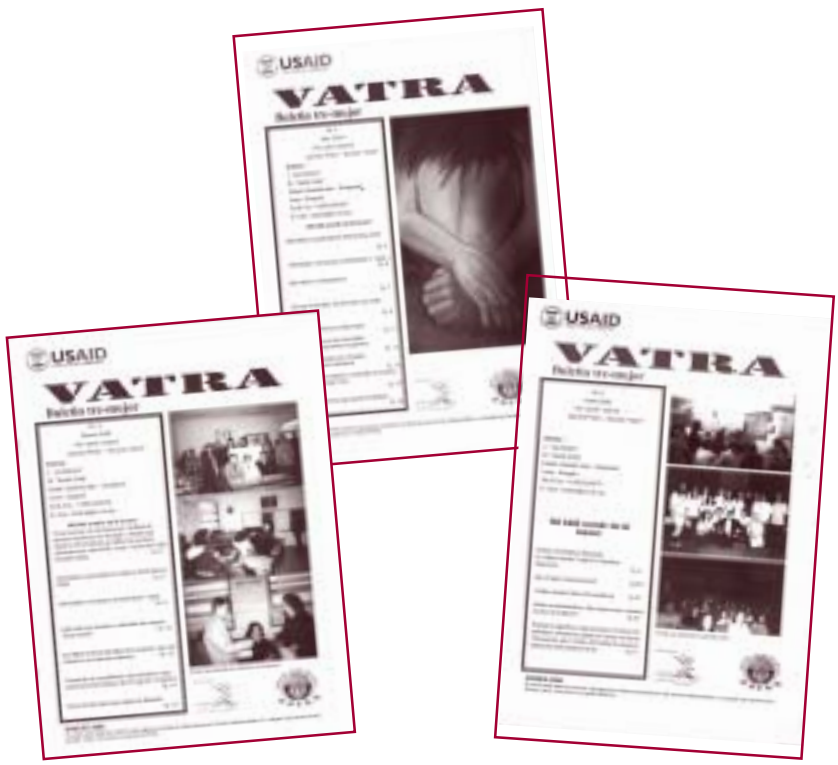
4 radio talks and 5 talks were held in the televisions of the cities of Vlore and Fieri.

These activities held in the framework of the project aimed at giving the information to Vlora and Fieri listeners and tele viewers **on the work Vatra does concerning the reintegration of trafficked victims; as well as the responsibilities and obligations the state and its institutions,**

civil society and community have in this process.
Thus, in it was treated the problem of violence toward women seen in the viewpoint of human being trafficking; such as violations of her fundamental rights and freedoms.

Informative bulletins

Part of activities in the program was the preparation and publishing of three-month informative Bulletins named Vatra. In those are reflected the activities of the project, as well as various information is given on important activities held by State Institutions, National and Interntional Organizationsin the framework of positive initiatives to fight human being trafficking.



Reintegration programs

To consider the effects of the job done with the communities at risk it is obvious only when working in parallel way, so in **prevention and reintegration**. In addition to sensitizing activities other activities were realised in the framework of reintegration program for trafficked victims.

16 girls were included in reintegration programs, who are employed in various private agencies.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AND DECISION MAKING

Women participation in politics and in decision making processes in Albania has been and continues to remain low for a series of reasons. The government is not at all proned to implement policies based on gender equality. Similarly, the Albanian politics is very strict and in it is seen a discriminating and non supporting attitude toward women. This is clearly reflected in the situation the women find themselves, who have or tried to become part of countries' political life.

The agresiveness of Albainan politics is openly presented during elections period and oblidges many women not to be included in this process.
It is an undeniable fact that in Albanian society the woman in general does not enjoy the proper right to be part of democratic processes and progress or the right to be elected. Such a situation is presented even in Vlora's county. There are more than 10 parties who have their branches in Vlora County and no one of them had or has any woman party leader. Leading posts for women in party at most may go till the level of forum woman leader, (always in those parties where these forums exist) or in the level of leadership members.

Even though women make up more than 50% of the population, they never equalise the polling percentage with the leading percentage. This mentality is that much rooted that it has made the women withdraw themselves in order to approach such initiations and aims because campaigns are conceived as denigrating campaigns of candidates for one another.

In this situation Vatra Centre, in order to increase the number of women candidates in local leading posts undertook the project:

Raising awareness of public opinion for the role of woman in social and political life of the country.

27 September 2006 - 28 February 2007

Funded by American Embassy

Aim of project

Increasing the number of women candidating for Mayor, in Commune and member of Municipality counsel in the municipalities and communes of Vlora County.

Objectives:

1. Cooperation with Political Parties to select and promote women candidates in local elections.
2. Presentation of female candidates for local elections in electronic media.
3. Sensitizing community for participation in elections.

Target groups

- Political parties
- Candidate women and girls
- Community

Areas included in the project

Municipalities of:

- Vlora
- Selenica
- Himara
- Orikumi

Main activities of the project:

- **Seminars**
- **Roundtables**
- **TV Debate**
- **Radio talks**
- **Publications:**
  - Brochure
  - Leaflet
  - Poster
  - TV advertisement

Photos from activities of the project during October – December 2006

Photos from activities of the project during October – December 2006

This project will continue to be implemented even during the year 2007.

CENTRE'S SUPPORTING PARTNERS

National

1. Ministry of Interior (Police Directorate of Vlora, Fieri, Berati, Gjirokastra, Tirana, Durrësi Counties)

2. Ministry of Labor Social Affairs (Regional Employment Offices, Centre of Professional Formation: Vlora, Fieri, Lushnja, Berat)

3. Public Prosecutor's Offices of Vlora, Fieri, Tirana, Lushnja counties.

4. Regional Education Directorates of Vlora, Fieri, Lushnja and directorates of High schools of these counties.

5. *Prefectures of* Vlora, Fieri.

Municipalities of Orikum, Himara, Selenica, Patos, Roskovec *Communes*: Novosela, Llakatundi, Risili, Levan.

6. Murialdo Centre, Fier

6. Women Counseling Centre, Durres

7. Different and Equal, Tirana

8. Albanian Institute of Social and Psychological Studies (I3SP)

9. Dea Association, Fieri

10. " Korça Women" Centre, Korça

11. Catholic Church, Vlora

12. Youthful Centre, Vlora

13. Multifunctional Hosting Community Centre in Gjirokaster.

14. Another Vision, Elbasan

15. ANTTARC

16. Centre of Human Development,Tirana.

17. CRCA - Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania

International

1. USAID
2. IOM
3. OSCE
4. Antislavery International
5. TRUST
6. Norwegian Embassy
7. ODHIR
8. LA STRADA , UKRAINE
9. World Vision
10. Organization : "Protection of Victims and Trafficking Prevention", Pristina, Kosovo

Donors

Norwegian Church Aid
TRUST
American Embassy
Kvinna till Kvinna
British Embassy

NETWORKS AND COALITIONS

As a result of dense activity and contribution Vatra gives in the fields it operates, it is continually invited by national and international networks and coalitions to become part of them. During this year like the previous years Vatra has become member of the below networks and Coalitions:

- **Atnet** – Regional Anti trafficking Network of Balkan NGOs and South-eastern Europe.
- **NEWR** – Europian Network for Women's rights.
- **PACO** – Judicial Network against Corruption and Organized Crime in South-eastern Europe.
- Networks of Centres Offering Social Services in South-eastern Europe.
- **Coalition on the Implementation of Human Dimension**.
- **ACTSEC** – Coalition against Trafficking and Children Sexual Exploitation in Albania.

What should be emphasized for this year is not only Vatra's inclusion in networks and Coalitions, but also their continual cooperation. Vatra has become part of working group for the compilation of the "Alternative Report of NGOs on the situation of women and girls in the Albanian Republic"; a quite important report sought every year by the relevant Committees of ONU, concerning International Conventions. This report is presented alongside with the report that the Albanian government presents in these committees.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- During this year Vatra was awarded with two International prizes given by two Organizations “CARITAS” Italy, and “Norsk Nodhjelp “, Norway for the contribution given in the country and region concerning the phenomenon of human being trafficking.

- **20 April 2006** Participation in the Roundtable: “Implementation of bilateral Agreement with Greek Government, for the protection and assistance of Albanian children, victims of trafficking”, organized by the Ministry of Interior, the Organization “Save the Children” and Albanian Foundation “Together against Children Trafficking”.

- **25 May 2006** Participation in the one-day seminar in Gjirokastër with people offering shelter services for the victims of trafficking, entitled “Referral, acceptance and interviewing procedures”, organised by CAAHT.

- **In July 2006**, Vatra in collaboration with IOM organized a sensitizing activity with the community in 4 Municipalities of Vlora District with topic: “Trafficking in human being an immediate risk for the women, girls and the young”.

- **In August 2006**, ODIHR-Austria organised in Albania two monthly trainings with representatives of Police, Public Prosectuor’s Office and Courts, in the framework of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. Co-trainers of ODHIR group were the experts of Vatra’s staff.

- **5 August 2006**, MTV in cooperation with IOM and Vatra organized

in Vlora a great Concert in the framework of sensitizing campaign for capacity building about the victims of human being trafficking.

- **18–20 September 2006**, participation in the Conference: “Regional and local capacity building of roma communities”, organised by OSCE-ODHIR.

- **26-27 September 2006**, International Conference in Kiev, Ukraine organized by the “La Strada”Organization with topic “Anti trafficking activity, toward prospectives for safe emigration focusing on the role of NGOs for monitoring and offering services”.

- **8-18 October 2006**, participation in World Conference: “Fight against Trans national Organised Crime”, organised by United Nations in Vienna, Austria where Vatra spoke in one of the sessions of this Conference.

- **13 November 2006**, International Conference organised by the Faculty of Justice in Tirana and the province of Caserta, Italy entitled “The Fight against Human Being Trafficking”

- **16-17 November 2006**, participation in the Conference: “Alliance against Human Being Trafficking”, organised by OSCE, Vienna.

- **16-17 November 2006**, Participation in the Annual Conference of Coordinated Action against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) “Sharing Best Practices against Human Being trafficking”, where Vatra presented its work concerning the Conference’s theme.

- **1 December 2006**, Roundtable with subject: “Possibility of leading to the court of justice, and damage compensation for the victims of trafficking”, organised by OSCE, Tirana.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2006

During 2006, Vatra has realized three projects financed by various donors who have been supporting it for several years.
The funds sent by every donor are in various currencies. The financial report presented below is in EUR, and is used the rate of exchange:

1 EUR= 122.52 leks
1 EUR= 94.70 USD

In total, the funds sent by the donors and spent for every project are:

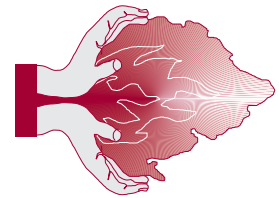
The Shelter's Project: 266683.17 EUR, from which are spent 224766.13 EUR. This project will continue to be financed by Norwegian Church Aid till April of 2007.

Prevention Project: 30609.2 EUR, which were spent totally. This was the continuation of the project financed by CAAHT (with USAID funds) since June of 2005.

The Election's Project: For this project were sent 4711.72 EUR and spent 4669.3 EUR. The activities of this project will continue till the end of February 2007.

Vatra possesses 7089.47 EUR from the solidarity contributions. These funds are used for the activities of the Center which are not foreseen in the projects'' budgets.
The attached table presents in a detailed way the funds sent by the donors and the respective expenses made in conformity with the budget voices.
This year the Center was audited by the National Agency "**Inter BBK. Auditing", in Tirana** and the International agency **Recor and Partners S.A (in Genoa, Switzerland).**

AUDITING REPORTS



FINANCIAL REPORT 1 JANNUARY 2006 -31 DECEMBER 2006
PROJECTS AND DONORS FOR THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL CENTER "THE HEARTH" FOR THE YEAR 2006

Nr	Projects	Donors	Period	Remained fund from 2005	Budget	Funds sent during 2006	Expences	Exchange gain/lost	Real differenc
1	Shelter for traffiked girls and women and those at risk	Norwegian Church Aid	1 April 2005 - 28 Shkurt 2006 *	27,617.95			27,700.48	-88.15	5.62
2	Awareness raising campaign to sensitize the youth, the women and the girls in general, on the risk that trafficking in human beings poses	CAAHT (with USAID funds)	1 June 2005 - 31 July 2006	121.68	**56,279.82**	30,487.35	30,609.17	-0.14	0.00
3	Shelter for traffiked girls and women and those at risk	IOM International Organisation for Migration	1January-31 March 2006		**14 540**	14,506.00	14,505.66	0.34	0.00
4	Shelter for traffiked girls and women and those at risk	Sigrid Rousing TRUST	1 January- 31 December 2006		**30 265**	28,997.37	29,013.73	-16.36	0.00
5	Shelter for traffiked girls and women and those at risk	NCA Norwegian Church Aid	26 April 2006 - 30 Aprill 2007		**113,910.00**	89,934.74	47,985.23	17.53	41,931.98
6	Shelter for traffiked girls and women and those at risk	KTK Kvina Till Kvina	1 April - 31 December 2006		**59,470.00**	59,357.63	59,357.26	0.37	0.00
7	Shelter for traffiked girls and women and those at risk	CAAHT (with USAID funds)	1 April - 31August 2006		**44,498.98**	44,498.98	44,498.35	0.63	0.00
8	Raising the awarness of public opinion, on the role of women in political and social life on the country	AMERICAN EMBASSY	27 September 2006 - 28 Febbruary 2007		**8,594.34**	4,711.72	4,669.30	-7.59	50.01
9	Social Cultural Activity for the girls and women accommodated in shelter (in Kruja)	British Embassy				641.00	641.00	0.00	0.00
10	Psycho Social Center "Vatra"	Solidarity Contribution	1January - 31 December 2006	4,602.00		4,945.12	2,457.65	0.00	7,089.47
				32,341.63	**282,753.13**	**278,079.91**	**261,437.83**	**-93.37**	**49,077.08**

*With the approvement of the donor this project is postponed till 28 febbruary 2006, with the funds remained from 2005