PSYCHO-SOCIAL CENTER "VATRA"

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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2010

Annual Report 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

"Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre has published its Annual Report for 2010 the activities conducted in the framework of the projects implemented during the year, financial donors, cooperating partners, annual expenses and auditing reports.

In the framework of its mission "support of the strata in need, especially women, girls, and young people in the region of Southern Albania through awareness raising programs, distribution of social services in the community and public information" for this year Vatra realized a considerable number of services and activities which contributed to the:

- Awareness raising of public opinion about the risk posed by the phenomena of human trafficking, domestic violence and the other problems they generate;
- Improvement of the social status of a significant number of victims of trafficking and domestic violence;
- Expansion of partnership with government, non-government, national and international institutions.

As far as the issues treated by Vatra are concerned, its staff has provided its expertise in drafting important governmental documents such as: the National Anti-trafficking Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2013, Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims or Potential Victims of Trafficking, National Strategy on Gender Equality and Reduction of Gender-Based Violence, 2011-2015, etc.

It is highly important to underline the fact that this year, unlike other years, the Albanian Government recognized the phenomenon of internal trafficking, and drafted a special action plan which was included in the National Anti-trafficking Strategy 2011-2013. Vatra has raised its concern on the existence and development of this phenomenon since 2004 and onwards[1].

Certainly, the support and appreciation received from national and international donors such as the American Embassy, British Embassy, European Commission, OSCE, USAID through the IOM, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, Norwegian Church Aid, Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation, Open Society Foundation for Albania SOROS, Austrian Development Agency, etc. have contributed extensively to the great success Vatra has achieved while fighting against the phenomena of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Through this report Vatra would like to express its gratitude to these institutions, which have contributed not only financially to the projects implemented by Vatra, but at the same time in terms of capacity building of the organization, support in solving important issues which have affected Vatra's work, participation in international activities, experience exchange with other organizations working in the same field, etc.

Thanks go also to state and local institutions, national and international organizations, networks and coalitions with which we have collaborated and coordinated the work in protection of the victims of trafficking and domestic violence.

Special thanks go to all the program's beneficiaries who believed and accepted the services offered by "Vatra" in function of their rehabilitation and reintegration in the social life.

I would also like to thank the members of the Board, the staff and all the volunteers of Vatra for the maximum commitment for the successful delivery of all the activities and services, which have contributed to the accomplishment of the objectives, set in fulfilling its mission.

Brikena Puka
Executive Director

[1] See Annual Report 2004, "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre, pg.31

CURRENT SITUATION OF TRAFFCIKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

During this year we have followed closely the social, economic and political situation of the country. The global financial crisis has obviously affected our country in a particular way, being it a country with a low economic development compared to other Balkan countries.

Political instability and failure of the Albanian Government to take effective measures in combating crime and illegal trafficking were some of the main reasons that the U.S Department of State in the report published in June 2010 ranked Albania in the second group (tier 2), i.e. countries which still have problems with illegal trafficking and organized crime.

This report highlighted particularly the development of internal trafficking which is becoming even more present in the Albanian society. Based on Vatra's data, currently the ratio between internal and external trafficking of females is 70% to 30%. Similarly, another concerning problem regarding internal trafficking is that increasingly the traffickers are exploiting under aged girls between 14-15 years old into daily prostitution. Vatra has raised with concern the development of this phenomenon since 2004 and onwards with the responsible central and local institutions and in particular with the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. It was Vatra that through the information and continuous meetings with this institution would dictate the necessity of drafting and approval of a specific action plan to combat it, given the dimensions it is taking in Albania, turning it already into a destination country.

In December 2010, the Ministry of Interior, the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator drafted the National Anti-trafficking Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2013. Trough its expertise Vatra contributed to the improvement of this document. For the first time internal trafficking has been given a special place in this strategy and has been considered as

one of the priority issues to be fought by the Albanian government.

The Ministry of Interior, after regular meetings during May - October 2010, in consultation with all the members of the National Referral Mechanism (Vatra being one of them) drafted the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims or Potential Victims of Trafficking. This document puts the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities / State Social Service in charge of the identification and referral of the victims of trafficking, responsibility which before the drafting of this document was covered by the shelters operating in Albania.

The measures the government is taking to financially support NGOs are to be welcomed, in particular shelters as the only residential centres, which provide social services for the victims of trafficking. In March 2010, the Albanian Government adopted the Law No.10252 dated 11 March 2010, "On economic aid to victims of trafficking and financing of services for this target group". The approval of this Law was the result of the continuous lobbying of the Organizations of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters to the Albanian government so that it would take its responsibilities and implement the action plans in the framework of the national anti-trafficking strategies. However, this Law and the financing agreement deriving there-from, drafted by the Ministry of Labour, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities do not comply with several official documents approved by the Albanian government and are in complete violation of the Law on the operation of NGOs. Article 4 of this Law states: "The budget of the Ministry of Labour, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities includes funds for financing social care services for victims of trafficking, which are transferred to local government bodies where these social care services operate".

This fund has been allocated only for food and only for the victims of trafficking who are treated in shelters, thus excluding children of victims of trafficking and the potential victims of trafficking. The potential victims or those at risk to be trafficked are recognized with this status even in the National Referral Mechanism, in the National Standards for Residential Centres for victims of trafficking and those at risk to be trafficked, in the National Anti-Trafficking Strategies, in the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims or Potential Victims of Trafficking, procedures which are being adopted. The establishment of shelters served for many years for the treatment of victims at risk to be trafficked or potential victims who are referred by the Police or State Social Service. So, this category is referred for assistance by the responsible state institutions but in fact this group is not supported by the government and is excluded from funding. Article

4 of Law 10252 dated 11 March 2010, further states "Social care services will receive funding only if they have a trilateral agreement with the State Social Service and the Local Government Unit where they provide the service. The agreement defines the rights and obligations of the parties and the structure at the social care services that will supervise the management."

According to this Law, the financial support that will be provided by the state to the organizations is conditioned by the signing of an agreement between the State Social Service, the Organization and the respective Municipality. This agreement (which again was drafted by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in May 2010 without the consultation with the stakeholders) so-called "Agreement for the financing and supervision of NGO's management ....." was based on:

a. The creation of a supervising structure for each organization consisting of 3 persons from the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (director, accountant and social worker) who would be placed within the organization's premises and supervise during all the time the management of the entire organization.
b. Financing only for food and only for the victims of trafficking excluding children of victims of trafficking and potential victims (explained above).

The establishment of the supervising structure and its location within the organization constitutes a flagrant violation of the Law No 8788 "On Non-Profit Organizations" in Albania, and specifically Article 6 of this Law according to which ".... state authorities do not interfere in the NGOs activity ...". After consultations with legal experts, NCATS organizations objected to this Law and provided options for its improvement. In fact the Commission of Laws did not adopt the amendments that we required to the Law.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities must review the Law and adapt it to all official documents adopted by the Albanian government in protection of the victims of trafficking and potential victims and in conformity with the legislation into force.

Another problem we have been facing, as it has been the case in previous years, has been the protection of witness victims. This is due to several reasons:

First, The lack of a lawyer for the witness victims in the office of General Prosecutor.

Currently the victims of trafficking have a lawyer who can be secured only by NGOs and who is in the role of the advisor and not of the legal representative. In Albania, the Prosecutor of the Case protects the rights of the victim of trafficking during all the proceedings in the prosecution office and in court. Unfortunately we must state that in some cases certain prosecutors or judges are on the side of the trafficker and not of the victim. Despite this, prosecutors during the investigation process confront the victim directly with the trafficker (face to face, alone), and in many cases the victims being intimidated for their life and for the lives of their family members withdraw the denunciations. If the victim would have the defence lawyer, it would be the latter that would represent her even in the confrontation with the trafficker and certainly the proceeding would be more effective. In order to have effective judicial proceedings, the Albanian government must secure a defence lawyer for the witness victims of trafficking in the general prosecutor's office who will represent them since the commencement of the proceedings until the end.

L.GJ. 17 years old, one of the victims of trafficking assisted by Vatra tells:

... during the first court hearing although I had asked the prosecutor of the case to conduct this hearing and those following with closed doors, my request was not taken into consideration by the adjudicating body. During the hearing, the moment I was giving my statement, the relatives of the defendant (who were over thirty people) began to make fun of me . There was no response from the adjudicating body to keep silence or order these people who were laughing to leave the room; instead the judges started laughing with the participants in the courtroom. This situation made me feel bad and scared. If this were not enough, the judge of the hearing started to ask me some intimate questions that had no relation to the case on trial, but that seriously infringed my dignity as a woman and person. Therefore I was lacking faith in the conduction of a fair and independent trial and at the same time from that moment I started to be scared for my life, because I am aware that by knowing the person and his family members, everything can happen....

As long as victims of trafficking will be treated simply as witnesses in the criminal proceedings they have commenced against traffickers and not as an injured party, they will feel unprotected, insecure for their lives and as a result will be unwilling to denounce those who have destroyed their lives and dreams.

Second, The fact that in all these years no victim, even though at high risk for life, has been included in the Law on witness protection shows the lack of trust and insecurity for the victims to denounce the traffickers. International institutions such as: the American Embassy, USAID, Task Force (OSCE) before 2005, have supported a number of victims including them in witness protection programs.

Third, As we have mentioned above internal trafficking is becoming increasingly concerning for the Albanian society and is predominating compared to external trafficking. As stated above, the Albanian Government in 2010 prioritized this phenomenon even in the National Anti-trafficking Strategy 2011-2013. But the treatment and protection of the victims of internal trafficking is still a problem. While the denunciations of victims of trafficking exploited outside the borders of Albania are treated by Prosecution Office and the Court of Serious Crimes, in Tirana, the denunciations against the traffickers of victims of trafficking within the country are treated as cases of exploitation into prostitution by the Prosecution Offices and Courts of relevant districts. Meanwhile there is no separate definition for external or internal trafficking in the Law. A victim exploited into prostitution outside or within the country, remains a victim of trafficking and must be protected and treated as such by the responsible institutions.

In the framework of the assistance for rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of trafficking Vatra Centre has worked even in terms of raising their awareness for denouncing the traffickers. In this framework one of its priorities has been the work for awareness raising of all witness victims whose judicial proceedings against traffickers have been successfully completed, in order to require compensation from the state institutions that treat this case.

According to the legal provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, the victim must pay the court fee when submitting the request for compensation in court, which is 1% of the requested amount. Taking into consideration the social and economic situation of the victims of trafficking, no victim of trafficking is able to pay this fee. From our experience during 2010, two victims of trafficking who required compensation, both withdrew this request in the moment they had to pay the fee. Moreover, the same is true for the enforcement of the decision by the bailiff's office, in which case the victim must pay in advance 2% of the amount. Given this, lobbying with state central institutions for the exemption of the victims of trafficking from Court and Bailiff's Office fees will be one of the priorities of Vatra and the NCATS. Besides human

trafficking, Vatra has analyzed and treated for years the phenomenon of domestic violence. Domestic violence is increasingly becoming a very worrying phenomenon for the Albanian society. This conclusion was drawn not only based on the statistics and data of Vatra for 2010 (95 cases of victims of domestic violence were treated, 17 of which in the shelter and 78 at the counselling office of Vatra Centre), but also from articles and reports in the print and visual media showing the tragic events of girls and women who as a consequence of violence become victims of family crime.

Another problem identified since years and which continues to remain a concern is the urgent accommodation (housing) of the victims of violence who require Immediate Protection Order.

Pursuant the Law, the Court has a deadline up to 48 hours to issue the Immediate Protection Order for the victims of violence over 18 years old and 24 hours for the minors.

The victims of violence may go to the relevant police station in the middle of the night and ask for help. While waiting for the issuance of the Immediate Protection Order, the victims (in most cases there are even women accompanied by children) are obliged to stay in the premises of Police Stations in districts. Police officers themselves are those who often use their own income to cover the cost for food for the victims. Currently, In Albania there are only three centres which are managed by NGOs that provide accommodation and rehabilitation services for the victims of violence. In September 2010 the Albanian Government approved the Law 10329, dated 30 September 2010 which provides for the establishment and operation of a National Centre of Social Care Service for victims of domestic violence.

Despite the existence of these centres, they can not cover all the housing and rehabilitation needs of victims of violence. Additionally, since the victims come from different districts of the country, it is necessary to accommodate them in crisis centres (or emergency centres) in the respective district while they are waiting for the Immediate Protection Order and do not have proper housing. Thus, the establishment of **crisis centres** for each district and the establishment of **other rehabilitation centres** for the victims of domestic violence arise as a necessity in conformity with the dimensions this phenomenon is taking day by day.

In this framework, in order to provide immediate support for the victims and prevent a possible crime the change of duration for issuing the Immediate Protection Order must

be reviewed. This deadline must be minimally 12 hours in order to give immediate priority to the protection of the victim and to her housing.

The story of one of the victims of violence assisted at Vatra during 2010

.N (38 years old) tells... "Since the first year of marriage he exercised violence against me while I was pregnant with our first child. After the birth of our daughter, his fierce reactions that ended up in most cases with physical violence were associated also with psychological pressure. He would not allow me to attend school, from which I had dropped out, or work outside home. As time passed we were suffering financial shortage as well, caused intentionally by him, and he would say "I feed you and maintain you, if it weren't for me, you would be dead". While in the family he restricted everything related to rights and freedom, outside it he used his freedom to indulge himself into extramarital relationships. After the birth of the second child, I was hoping our life would become better, but in fact it became worse.

Despite violence against me, he also began to beat the children and especially the daughter. Last time he beat her she was sent to hospital, and in cold blood, when the girl refused to meet "her father", he removed the serum tubes providing her medicine.

How can I put up with his after what he did? What more can a father do to his child, a husband to his wife, a head of family to his family? I have endured 20 years of physical violence, despise, abuse against me, but I can never tolerate and wait for the day that I or my children will be killed by this man. I fear about my life and that of my children, I have no home, I have no job, I am completely psychologically and physically destroyed. Will I one day start a new life without violence? Who assures me that ....

From what we have assessed and considering the risk that perpetrators pose not only to the victim and family members (children, mother, father) but also to the whole society, one of the priorities of Vatra' s work in the future will be providing psychological and psycho-emotional assistance also for this target group.

Moreover, although Law No. 10329, dated 30 September 2010 stipulates that "National Chamber of Advocates and the State Commission on Legal Assistance shall submit to Courts the list of lawyers who are authorized to provide free legal assistance", still nothing has been done in this regard. Non-profit organizations are the ones that treat the victims of domestic violence and provide free legal assistance. Certainly, non-profit organizations are not present

in every district of Albania and not all women's organizations provide free legal assistance. So even if most victims of domestic violence would have the courage to denounce the violence exercised against them, when faced with the fact that they must pay a defence lawyer, they withdraw and continue to endure the daily violence against them. It is the Government's task to exercise pressure with the responsible institutions for the enforcement of the laws and guidelines it issues and approves, in order to protect the victims of violence and minimize this phenomenon which has become increasingly present in society.

The treatment of domestic violence and human trafficking issue by the print and visual media is another problem which should be regarded with seriousness due to the fact that in many cases different media have published in unprofessional and unethical way accurate data on the identity of the victims of violence, flagrantly violating the confidentiality and as a result putting at risk their lives.

The Albanian State must provide strong sanctions in the Law regarding the Albanian media for the unprofessional and unethical treatment of cases of victims of domestic violence and trafficking and the organizations that treat them, in particular when confidentiality is affected and lives of the victims and the staff working with them are put at risk the.

By not being considered a crime, but seen and treated as an internal family issue, domestic violence in Albania, differently from human trafficking, is extended across the country, affecting all strata of society and resulting in increasing crime rates within the Albanian family.

From the above analysis, we see that the development of the phenomenon of internal trafficking and domestic violence still remains a problem. Vatra Centre, in the framework of its mission, with the activities and services it provides is contributing not only through helping the victims of trafficking and domestic violence, but through strengthening the cooperation with the state institutions is struggling for the effective implementation of the strategies and action plans in support of the victims, in order to solve the numerous problems that concern them.

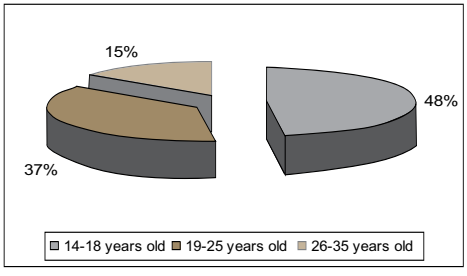
Below there is a statistical presentation of the social status of the victims of trafficking, potential victims as well as victims of domestic violence.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CASES OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING /POTENTIAL VICTIMS ASSISTED BY VATRA DURING 2010

A total of 101 victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking have been assisted during 2010, of whom 27 were assisted for the first time in the shelter and 74 have been assisted in their families and their current residence, in the framework of the long-term monitoring process (these beneficiaries have been treated with the rehabilitation - reintegration services in the shelter during the past three years and currently Vatra' s staff is supporting them even after having left the shelter).

Below we will present the status of 27 victims of trafficking and potential victims who were assisted during 2010 in the shelter, since for rest Vatra has analyzed in detail every element of this phenomenon with regards to: age-groups, marital status, education, areas the victims come from, methods of recruitment, place of exploitation, etc.

Age-group	
14-18 years old	13
19-25 years old	10
26-35 years old	4



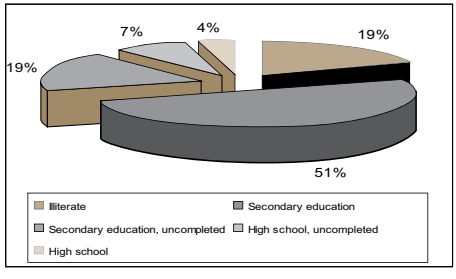
As mentioned above, and as it can be seen from the chart, during this year there has been a high number of under aged victims of trafficking or potential victims, accounting for 48% of the total number of victims assisted. We have ascertained that girls from this target group come from families with pronounced social problems: families with divorced parents, single parent families, children with stepfathers or stepmothers, families where violence against the mother or children is present, etc. These are precisely the problems which have made the girls fall prey of traffickers in finding a

"better living opportunity."

Similarly, the recruitment of girls aged 19-25 (37%) remains a problems, as it was in the past years. Although victims over 25 years old account for 15% of the total number, from the information received from the direct interviews with them it has emerged that they were recruited when they were between 13-20 years old.

Education

Illiterate	5
Secondary education	14
Secondary education, uncompleted	5
High school	2
High school, uncompleted	1

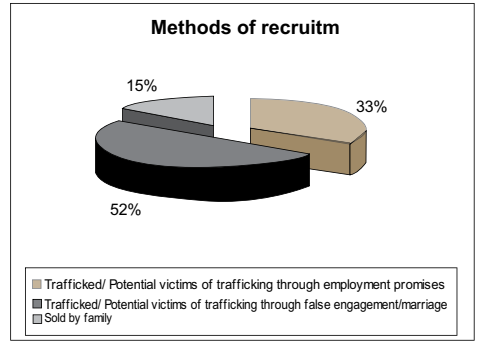


As it can be seen from the table and chart above the educational level of the girls and women victims of trafficking or potential victims of trafficking is very low. About 89% of victims are illiterate or have completed secondary education. This relates to the fact mentioned above that 51% of victims or potential victims are under aged; therefore they belong to this educational level.

However, even from the analysis that we have conducted in the previous years, it has resulted that the victims of trafficking have a low educational level. They either have never been registered at school or have not completed or have completed the secondary education.

Methods of recruitment

Trafficked/ Potential victims of trafficking through employment promises	9
Trafficked/ Potential victims of trafficking through false engagement/marriage	14
Sold by family	4



From the above data it results that 52% of victims of trafficking or potential victims have been recruited through deception for engagement/ marriage, 33% through promises for employment and 15% were sold by their family. So we see a reappearance of the phenomenon of girls being sold by their family members. Out of the four cases

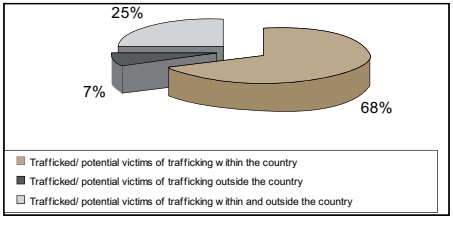
presented in this group, three come from Roma families with extreme social and economic problems, which result in the continuous violence exercised mainly by the head of the family against the wife and children. In all the abovementioned cases, the parents, the stepfather or a supporting family member are those who have forced the girls to bring incomes in family through exploitation, initially by begging and then through trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Areas they come from:	
Urban	15
Rural	12

As it has been also explained in the 2009 annual report, despite the fact that apparently the victims of trafficking or potential victims come from urban areas, they belong mainly to families living in the rural areas, who have come to urban areas seeing it as an opportunity for a better life.

Place of exploitation	
Trafficked/ potential victims of trafficking within the country	19
Trafficked/ potential victims of trafficking outside the country	2
Trafficked/ potential victims of trafficking within and outside the country	7

Since 2004, when internal trafficking began to be developed in Albania and every year after that "Vatra" has followed the evolution of this phenomenon, the dimensions it has taken from year to year. So if in the 2004 -2006 period the ratio of girls trafficked outside the borders of Albania with exploitation within the country (based on cases assisted by Vatra) has been 80% to 20%, in 2007-2009 this ratio changed to 50% to 50% and in 2010 (based on statistics of the number of cases assisted by Vatra) this ratio is 30% to 70%.



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ON THE CASES OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSSISTED BY VATRA DURING 2010

As presented above during 2010 compared with previous years there is an increased number of women and girls, victims of domestic violence assisted by Vatra. During this year a total of 95 women and girls victims of domestic violence were treated, 17 of whom were treated in the residential centre and 78 in the Prevention Offices of Vatra.

Below we provide an analysis of the social situation of the victims of domestic violence based on the data for each beneficiary assisted.

Age-group	
14-18 years old	1
18-25 years old	18
25-35 years old	24
Over 35 years old	52

If we would focus on the age of the victims of violence, we would see a high number of those who are over 25 years old, mainly being women head of family who have suffered all forms of violence. There is no strong correlation between age and the violence exercised, since the forms of violence have began early in the lives of these women, meanwhile awareness raising has come later.

However, from the interviews with the victims of violence it results that, the older they grow, the smaller is the hope for a healthier family life. Women lose their chances of economic and psychological empowerment and also the perpetrators are psychologically more aggravated. This leads to the escalation of domestic violence, since it already includes even the children who grow and generate the pattern of violence. Thus, we can talk about violence exercised by husbands against their wives and daughters; violence exercised by boys against their mothers and sisters, etc.

Marital status	
Single	7
Married	69
Divorced *(in process)*	17
Widows	2

Married women and those that are in the divorce process constitute the highest number of victims of violence, due to the fact that their main perpetrators are the husbands. These victims feel powerless not only before physical and psychological violence, but also before the fact that they must

find economic alternatives to care for their children.

Most often these women have to leave the house due to security reasons. In these cases, they should also care for the psychological and emotional comfort of the children, whom they take with them in most cases.

Education

Illiterate, elementary education	7
Secondary education	55
High school/ High school uncompleted	23
Higher education	9
Higher education uncompleted	1

Domestic violence does not have a direct impact on the education of the victims. This can be seen even from the statistics showing that violated women have different educational levels. So, we see more women who have completed higher education and secondary education than those who are illiterate and have completed elementary education. These women are more aware to seek help and are more powerful with regards to economy and social status.

However, we see that the victims, who have completed secondary education, constitute the highest number of violated women. These women constitute also the highest number of housewives, who have hardly ever worked in their lives and who are economically more dependent on their husbands. It is indispensable for these women to acquire a profession in order to have more employment opportunities.

Precisely this group of victims receive more support through vocational trainings by Vatra's projects, because the goal is their economic and social empowerment.

Violence caused

Psychological	53
Physical	44
Sexual	6
Economic (financial)	30

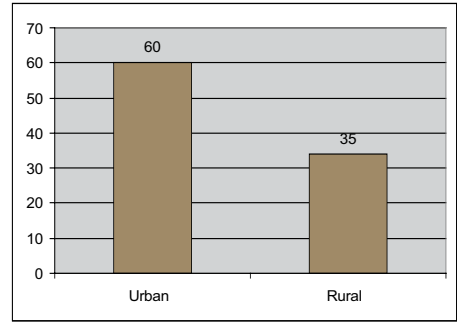
We can say that the forms of psychological violence, such as emotional abuse and neglect, are less identifiable than physical and sexual abuse, due to the lack of a clear definition, but also due to the level of personal and social judgement. For example in Albania, until some time ago, the patterns of criticism and emotional expectations, punishment, were encouraged by society, because they were thought to be important for the development of the character and personality of the child and adult. Whereas, nowadays, these forms are increasingly more distinguished as abusive, due to public opinion's awareness raising on the rights of children and women.

If we see the statistics, the most widely spread form of violence is psychological, but the most visible is the physical violence. 44 violated females have come with distinguishing signs of physical violence such as large livid spots caused by beating, haematoma and broken limbs.

Sexual violence is less identifiable, because women find it more difficult to talk about their sexual relationships. Even this form of violence in most cases is covered by social perceptions that people have in treating women as sexual property of men. Women who have reacted against this violence talk about the heavy psychological and emotional consequences they had experienced during the violent sexual act, as well as the insults and intimidations suffered.

Forms of economic violence also account for a significant number of cases. It includes particularly the cases of victims who have suffered violence from their husbands. The latter even when they are in work relationships, misuse the incomes from work, do not contribute in the family for the growth of children, and control the expenses of their wives. Likewise, this group includes also the cases of divorced women with children, who, based on court decision, are entitled to alimony for their children payable by their former husbands. In all reported cases, these women have not found a solution although with our support we have required the enforcement of the decision with the Bailiff's Office, in Vlora.

Areas they come from



The above statistical facts show that there have been more violated women from urban areas, who have required help. These facts are not the main indicator, which shows that women who come from urban areas are more violated. Greater collective life in the city makes violence more visible and tangible.

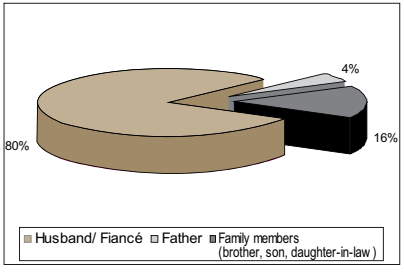
It is worth mentioning here also the higher level of awareness of women living in urban areas, due to information and campaigns against violence that have been undertaken from Vatra as well from other organizations. Additionally the treatment of domestic violence is no longer a taboo, but a reality. Increased expertise in treating domestic violence and the legislation

in force have strongly influenced the treatment of this ongoing phenomenon.

Moreover, economic independence can be achieved more easily in cities, where more work places are available. Meanwhile the rural reality does not offer much to a violated woman or to the victims of domestic violence.

Perpetrator

Husband/ Fiancé	76
Father	4
Family members (brother, son, daughter-in-law)	15

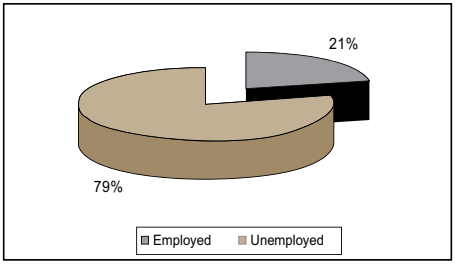


SAs it is obvious from the chart above in 80% of cases the perpetrators have been husbands/or fiancés of victims of domestic violence.

From the conducted interviews, it appears that the major part of the perpetrators, whether husbands or boys, are alcoholic or drug addicts. These are men who have known many failures in their lives, both financially and socially, with unemployment accounting for the main cause. They also have a family background with many social problems.

Employment

Employed	20
Unemployed	75



79% of the victims assisted have been unemployed. Unemployment is a sore affecting the entire society, but for victims of violence it takes another dimension, that of survival. During interviews, most of the victims state that they have never worked in their lives and this is due to several reasons, among which: insufficient education, lack of a profession, lack of work places, but also reluctance of husbands for the employment of their wives expressed under the terms of jealousy or greater care towards family.

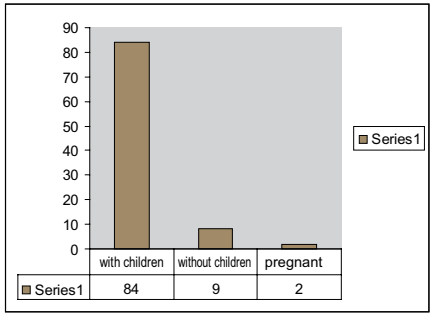
On the other hand lack of employment has made these women economically dependent on their partners, to the point that they could endure all forms of violence because they could not live alone with their children.

Lack of employment has caused them a higher level of psychological stress, which is expressed in their depressive state, as well as in the low level of self-esteem.

This is precisely the first request of violated women: employment.

The economic situation is not good even for the victims who are currently employed. 90% of them work in private clothing enterprises and the salary they receive is minimal compared to the demands of their families. However, these women feel stronger and can withstand better the stress accumulated in the family.

Children



As shown from the statistics, the majority of violated women who have been supported by Vatra, have children. In 90% of cases, they have been accompanied by their children, even when they have been accommodated in the Shelter.

The psychological and physical violence brings consequences to the physical as well as to the mental health of children.

The consequences related to physical health appear mainly in a reaction of the child's body to growth, while social consequences are evident in social relationships with others and problems with attachment. This violence results in slow sensory-motor development, whereas the intellectual and linguistic habits are the main cognitive consequences of these abusive parental practices.

Children have shown aggravated psycho-emotional states. They have shown depressive state and emotional fluctuations. Due to these reasons, they have undergone counselling sessions.

Alan Carr (2004) states that: parents may use children to identify their emotional needs, by treating them very confidently. This conclusion is also found in cases of children treated by Vatra. In many cases the child has been the one consistently experiencing the anger, or suffering caused by the other parent in cases of divorce, or the continuous anxieties on various issues. In such situations, children have found themselves between the parent who "complaints" and the other parent, having difficulties in the clear understanding of the autonomy. These methods can create suffocating parental models in future relationships[2].

It must be mentioned that older children (adolescents or older) have shown aggressive behaviour toward

2. Alan Carr (2004)," The handbook of child and adolescent clinical psychology", pg 785, year 2004.

their fathers and refused meetings with them.

Whereas, younger children did not express aggressive behaviour, but were less sociable and more attached to their mothers.

There were more difficult situations when the children have been separated respectively between mother and father. Violated women have felt guilty for "abandoning" their children and sometimes, this has been the main motive for their return to the perpetrator.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING 2010

During 2010, Vatra has worked and continues to successfully implement important projects in the field of trafficking in human beings and domestic violence, for the prevention and reintegration of the victims of these phenomena, which have directly influenced not only in informing the community but also in the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of trafficking and domestic violence.

The projects implemented in the framework of the fight against trafficking and domestic violence during this year include:

- Project "Direct assistance for the accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of trafficking, potential victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence" (an ongoing project since 2001);

- Project "Awareness raising campaign to sensitize women, girls and young people on the risk represented by trafficking in human beings and the other negative phenomena that stem from it "(which began in September 2009 and continued until February 2010);

- Project "Monitoring of local government institutions for the implementation of the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships" and informing the public opinion to prevent family crime" which is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tirana and will continue to be implemented until June 2011.

Similarly, Vatra' s staff has given its contribution and has been an active participant in national and international activities implemented by government and non government institutions, whose themes have been within the focus of Vatra' s mission.

The next section of this report shows a narrative presentation of the services and activities delivered for each project.

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

Funded by: USAID through the IOM, The Sigrid Rausing TRUST, London, Kvinna Till Kvinna, Open Society Foundation for Albania SOROS, Norwegian Church Aid, Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES DELIVERED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT

During this year, a total of 131 women and girls (victims of trafficking, potential victims and victims of domestic violence) and 17 children accompanied by mothers have been assisted and have received the services provided by Vatra' s staff.

- 61 of them have received residential services (rehabilitation and reintegration) in the shelter.
- 87 have received community services in the family and in the prevention offices of Vatra.

Accommodation in the shelter:

The following table is a result of a division of the total number of the accommodated beneficiaries:

ACCOMMODATION	WOMEN AND GIRLS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
Accommodated for the first time in the shelter	44	3	**47**
Remained from December 2009	12	2	**14**
TOTAL	**56**	**5**	**61**

Referral in the shelter

All beneficiaries accommodated and treated in the shelter have been referred mainly by the District Police Directorates which have referred 21 beneficiaries, State Social Service 2 beneficiaries, NCATS' Shelters and NGOs 11 beneficiaries and rest by family members/community or self-referred.

Sources of referral	Number of beneficiaries (girls and women) referred	Number of children accompanied by mothers referred
Police Directorates	**21**	**-**
Vlora Police	5	
Durrës Police	3	
Berat Police	4	
Sarandë Police	5	
Tirana Police	1	
Ballsh Police Station	1	
Tepelenë Police	1	
Mallakastër Police Station	1	
State institutions	**2**	-
State Social Service (Vlora)	**2**	
Shelters' Coalition	**5**	**2 children**
National Receiving Centre Linzë	4	
Jetë dhe Shpresë, Gjirokastër	1	**2 children**
Referrals by other Organizations	**4**	
Murialdo Centre Fier	1	
Catholic Church	1	
The Counselling Centre in Durrës	2	
Family members/Self-referral/ Community	**12**	**1 child**
Family members	4	
Self-referral	8	1
Total	**44**	**3**

In November 2010 in Gjirokaster the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and IOM organized the Regional Meeting "On the Orientation of the Basic Structures for the Implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims or Potential Victims of Trafficking". After this meeting, during December these procedures began to be applied in terms of assisting the identified cases. So, during this month two potential victims of trafficking were referred by the State Social Service in Vlora (according to these procedures) to receive the services in "Vatra" shelter. The responsible institutions will start the implementation of these procedures at the beginning of 2011.

Identification:

Out of 47 women and girls accommodated during this year we have identified:

- Victims of trafficking **14 girls**
- Potential victims of trafficking **13 girls**
- Victims of domestic violence **17 women and girls**
- Children accompanied by mothers **3 (2 girls and 1 boy)**

Medical assistance

The methods of exploitation and violation of the victims have caused serious injuries to their health, in particular in the reproductive aspect, mental health, psycho-emotional state, etc. Therefore, in order to provide a more complete assistance to the victims in this regard, medical service has been offered not only by the doctor of the shelter, but it has been cooperated also with other institutions in district specifically: Directorate of Public Health, Vlora, District Hospital of Vlora, "Aulona" Centre, etc.

In collaboration with the Directorate of Public Health, Vlora free of charge tests have been conducted for 5 groups of Sexually Transmitted Infections for 27 beneficiaries, of whom 3 cases have been identified with Hepatitis B. Similarly, in the framework of the cooperation agreement with the Woman Centre "Aulona", Vlora gynaecological visits, gynaecological ultrasounds, smear tests, etc. have been conducted free of charge.

The doctor of the Centre has followed the health progress of the beneficiaries through periodic medical visits and in specific cases the beneficiaries have been visited and have received the relevant medications by the specialist doctors of the Regional Hospital of Vlora. 24 cases have been treated by the dentist. In total, 311 repeated visits have been conducted by the doctor of the shelter and the specialist doctors of the District Hospital, Vlora.

The treatment of the cases of beneficiaries with drug addiction, mental health problems, Hepatitis C, etc., continues to be a problem, as they require not only a special treatment under specialized hospital conditions, but also a high financial cost, which is impossible to be realized by an organization.

Another difficulty in providing this service in shelters is the high cost of dental treatment of the beneficiaries, who have serious problems and are unable to individually cover this treatment. Although, until now the financial support of our international donors has allowed for the overcoming of all the difficulties we have

encountered in the health treatment of the beneficiaries, it is necessary for these services to be seen with priority by the Albanian state, aiming their provision free of charge for the target groups treated in the shelters.

In order to increase the beneficiaries' information on their health care, the doctor of the shelter conducts every month free discussions and informative sessions on the topics of: personal hygiene, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Hepatitis B, C, HIV/AIDS, problems of digestive system, influenza and its consequences, attention towards the use of food especially during the summer season, etc.

Legal assistance and counselling for beneficiaries in the shelter:

The lawyer of the Centre has assisted and has offered legal counselling to all the beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter. Similarly, the lawyer has offered his direct assistance to **17** beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter.

Moreover, based on the plan of activities, the lawyer has conducted **24** group sessions with the beneficiaries in the shelter on various legal topics such as: "On the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice ", "the Albanian legislation in protection of the victims of trafficking ", "What does the Constitution of the Republic of Albania foresee about human rights?", "European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms ", "Fatherhood, motherhood," Adoption", "Law On measures against violence in family relationships", etc.

Psycho-emotional support

Individual counselling: has been offered in conformity with the individual needs of the cases and tailored to the objectives set in the rehabilitation and reintegration plan drafted by the Case Manager in close collaboration with the beneficiary.

The individual counselling has been focused on:

- Building relationships with family members,
- Psycho-emotional support with regards to the conflicting situation with the family (especially in cases after direct phone contacts with the family of the beneficiaries),
- Increase of self-esteem, relationships with the beneficiaries and life in the shelter,
- Conflict management,
- Progress in the vocational training, at school or work relations
- Plans for the future and independent life outside the shelter
- In this framework **356** individual counselling sessions have been conducted with the beneficiaries.

Group counselling: group

counselling has been conducted not only based on the monthly plan of the shelter's activities, but it has also been initiated during free discussions with the beneficiaries on various topics. **42** planned group counselling sessions have been conducted on topics such as: living in harmony in the family, the importance of education and preparation for life, self-confidence and self-esteem, evolution and development of the concept of oneself, children's rights, conflict management, how do we gain the social status, care and understanding for people with mental health problems, social aspects of domestic violence, etc.

Psychological assistance and counselling

Individual counselling

In most cases the beneficiaries treated in the shelter, because of specific problems they have, are characterized by **mood disorders and depression** (which brings as a consequence sleep disorders), **mental repression, labelling as a result of mental distortion, self-blame**. A frequently encountered aspect is **post traumatic stress disorder** with symptoms such as: stressful memories about the event, lack of interest, bursting irritation, difficulty in concentration, etc.

As a result of past trauma, for **6 cases** that have been treated in the shelter during this period disorder has transformed into more aggravated borderline personality disorders standing between psychosis and neurosis. Whereas for the other cases that have been treated elements, from which this type of disorder stems, have been noticed. **Neurotic behaviours** vary in terms of time and have been afforded by staff who have shown care and have treated them with professionalism.

Collaboration with the beneficiaries has been very important in achieving their best treatment aiming the reduction of negative emotions, increase of positive emotions, finding their interests and promoting positive memories.

Based on the will of the beneficiaries themselves the psychologist of the centre has conducted throughout the year **238 individual counselling sessions.**

Group therapy

Another important aspect of psychological treatment consists of group discussions. Topics have been selected in compliance with the wishes of beneficiaries. However, topics which have been assessed necessary by the psychologist in order to obtain more complete information on the cases have also been included. 24 group counselling sessions have been conducted where the topics addressed have been mainly on: knowing how to speak, combination of gestures, what happens to the

body during stress, forgetfulness and memory, personality types, addiction to tobacco and other narcotic substances, marriage and adultery, etc. Upon request of the beneficiaries several psychological tests, curiosities and various information have been included.

Assistance to children of beneficiaries

During 2010 Vatra Centre has assisted 5 children accompanied by mothers, victims of trafficking and domestic violence. Various activities have been organized for these children such as: games in the premises of the shelter, accompaniment in the playground of the city, walks near the seaside, celebration of their birthdays, etc.

Additionally, the work of the shelter' s teacher has been focused on following up their learning progress, in reading books depending on the age group, telling fairy tales and stories for children, drawing or creative games with plasticine, as well as leisure activities in the games' corner of the shelter under the supervision of staff.

Almost all children needed psychological assistance which was provided by the psychologist of the centre. A very important activity for the children this year has been the summer camp organized by the **Child Protection Unit in Vlora**, which lasted 1 month. This activity has positively influenced the socialization of these children with other children in the camp, in the improvement and strengthening of knowledge for their age, entertainment and as a way of freely expressing themselves.

In parallel with the work done with these children, their mothers have been specifically assisted with regards to upbringing and care for their children. Once needs have been assessed and problems have been noticed in this relationship, mothers have been advised from time to time by the staff of the shelter through informative and educational sessions on social and health topics, free discussions, individual counselling, etc. Also, mothers have been encouraged to take responsibility on monitoring the progress of their children in kindergarten and school by becoming part of various meetings organized by the teaching staff, holding individual meetings with the tutor teachers, etc.

Income generating activities
(Embroidery and handworks course)

The beneficiaries in the shelter are included in the handworks course organized by representatives of World Vision and the Evangelical Church in Vlora, from which they have made many postcards, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, etc. The girls and women are actively involved in this course and are very creative in the

realization of these handworks. All the works of the beneficiaries were presented in another fair organized by World Vision and the Evangelical Church in Vlora, in September 2010. This activity served not only for the increase of self-esteem of the beneficiaries, but also as a financial aid coming from the proceeds of the sales of these handworks.

Course on the improvement of life skills

In the framework of improving and increasing life skills, as part of the reintegration program, beneficiaries have been included in a special course organized by World Vision and the Evangelical Church in Vlora. Different social topics have been discussed focused mostly on recognition of oneself and communication with others, revealing life goals and making good decisions. These sessions have been conducted outside the shelter and were followed by leisure time activities with creative games as well as souvenirs depending on the respective topics.

Socio-cultural activities within and outside the shelter

The girls and women victims of trafficking and domestic violence due to the extreme physical and psychological violence they have suffered are often traumatized, psychologically and morally destroyed. The conduction of the socio-cultural activities within and outside the shelter is very important for their psychological and emotional relief. These activities are carried out taking into consideration the wishes and needs of the beneficiaries themselves.

From the activities within the shelter we can mention: celebration of birthdays, celebration of national and international holidays, dancing and conduction of various psychological games.

Moreover, the beneficiaries who have a considerable educational level have used the library of the Centre for reading different novels.

The beneficiaries who attend vocational courses practice in the sewing machines, computer, cooking and hairdressing provided to them in the premises of the shelter.

The visits to the tourist spots or museums are activities conducted with the beneficiaries in order to make them recognize the cultural and historical values of our country. 17 socio-cultural activities have been conducted during this year outside the shelter and specifically in: the Castle of Berat, Monastery of Zvërnec (Vlora), tourist spot of Llogara, Vlora coast. Other activities outside the shelter have included walks and entertainment in beautiful tourist

places of Vlora on the occasion of different national and international holidays.

Joining with the families

Establishment of contacts with the families of the victims of trafficking or potential victims and their return to the family

One of the main challenges in the work of the shelter's staff is the joining of the victims of trafficking with their family members. It is known that the patriarchal mentality that exists in the community about the girls and women exploited into prostitution is quite severe. These girls and women are prejudiced by family members, relatives and the community they live in.

It is precisely this mentality which becomes an obstacle for the family to accept their daughter as a victim of trafficking and allow her to return close to the family and live a normal life. The work of Vatra's staff even for this year has consisted in conducting frequent visits in the families of the victims (in those cases when the family has not been part of their recruitment), conducting direct conversations with the parents and other relatives, making a convincing work to raise their awareness for accepting their daughter as a victim and not as a "prostitute" as they are often labelled by them. After this long and difficult work the staff has drafted the victims' return to the family plan. What we want to point out for this year is the fact that all the difficult cases have been realized successfully, 8 of which have been included in the long-term program of rehabilitation and reintegration in society.

45 girls, women and children accompanied by mothers have joined their families for 2010, while **3** beneficiaries have been accommodated in rented apartment (in the framework of the program) and 1 other lives an independent life.

Referrals from and to other residential institutions

In the framework of the operation of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters, there exists among the shelters the possibility of mutual referrals so that the beneficiaries can be given access to various services for improving their status. Additionally, mutual referrals are conducted between the shelters and organizations operating in the field of trafficking and domestic violence.

- Vatra to Different & Equal
  1 girl
- Vatra to Reception Centre Linzë
  1 woman
- Vatra to Counselling Centre for women and girls in Tirana
  1 woman

- National Reception Centre Linzë to Vatra **4** girls
- Life & Hope to Vatra **1** woman and 2 children

Education

In collaboration with the Regional Educational Directorate Vlora, **15** beneficiaries have enrolled in distance studies, of whom:

- **2** beneficiaries in the first grade of elementary school;
- 1 beneficiary in the third grade of elementary school;
- 1 beneficiary in the seventh grade of secondary school
- 2 beneficiaries in the sixth grade of secondary school;
- 3 beneficiaries at high school (following the classes of the previous school year);
- 1 son of a beneficiary in kindergarten for the preschool cycle.

The teacher of the Centre has conducted the daily teaching classes with all the beneficiaries who attend school, assisting them in absorbing the lessons of the relevant subjects. Similarly, in the framework of the long-term monitoring program of the beneficiaries treated in the shelter, Vatra' s staff in collaboration with the Educational Directorates and respective high schools offering distance education have followed up and supported other 4 beneficiaries who are now with their families.

The son of a beneficiary has enrolled this year free of charge in the kindergarten of Nuns of the Catholic Church in Vlora, and his progress in the kindergarten has been followed up by the teacher of the Centre and the social worker of the case. During the summer season the beneficiaries have been encouraged to read novels in order to improve their cultural and educational background. This was also considered as a way for passing the free time in the shelter.

Vocational training

Based on the educational and cultural level, socio-economic conditions in the family and the will of the beneficiaries, even for this year **34 women and girls were given the opportunity to attend free of charge vocational courses provided by the state**, respectively in: tailoring, hairdressing, cooking and English language, which are conducted at the Regional Directorate of Vocational Training in Vlora.

Thus:

- Were certified in the hairdressing course **9** women and girls
- Were certified in the cooking course **4** women and girls
- Were certified in the tailoring course **3** women

- Was certified in the English language course **1** girl
- Were certified in the computer course **2** girls
- Are attending these courses 15 girls

Following their certification in the respective courses of hairdressing and tailoring, **12**[3] girls and women were provided with the basic tools of the profession.

For the hairdressing course: professional hair dryers, scissors, brushes, combs, poker, etc.

For the tailoring course: sewing machine, different cloths, coils, etc.

Employment

One of the institutions Vatra has been cooperating with for many years in providing this service for the beneficiaries treated in the shelter is the Regional Directorate of Employment, in Vlora. However, since this institution has authority only with regards to employment into private entities, the stability of the victims' employment remains a problem. This is because private entities often have financial problems and cut down work places, and certainly the first to suffer from this are the victims of trafficking.

The only programs which have succeeded in the employment into private entities are those on promoting employment (which are implemented by the state), according to which the beneficiaries are trained for a 4 months period by the Regional Directorate of Employment, and after this 4 months period they are provided an employment contract for 1 year in the respective entity where they are employed. In July 2010, the employment promotion program was implemented by the Regional Directorate of Employment, Vlora, which included 7 beneficiaries treated by Vatra.

Besides the 7 beneficiaries who were employed in the employment promotion program in tailoring enterprises, other 32 girls have been employed in the following positions (a total of 39 women and girls):

- **3** salespersons in a boutique in Vlora;
- **1** worker in a grocery;
- **4** beneficiary as hairdresser's assitants;
- **20** beneficiaries in tailoring enterprises;
- **1** beneficiary in an Italian enterprise "Calling Centre";
- **1** social operator in the prevention offices of Vatra;
- **2** beneficiaries as cook's assistants in a restaurant in Vlora.

39 girls and women were employed in total.

3 One of the girls who successfully completed the hairdressing course benefited the micro business of a beauty saloon close to her family.

All the beneficiaries who completed the tailoring and hairdressing courses exercise the profession close to their families with the tools donated at the completion of the course, from which they generate incomes to afford some personal or family living costs.

In the framework of the approval of the Decision No. 796, dated 08 September 2010 "On some additions and amendments to Decision No. 787 dated 14 December 2005 of the Council of Ministers "On defining the criteria, procedures and amount of economic aid, amended " Vatra's staff is supporting some former victims of trafficking treated at Vatra in the process of obtaining economic aid. One of the beneficiaries is benefiting this aid. **2** others have submitted the documents to the relevant Municipalities and some others are in process. *It is highly important to note that a considerable number of former victims of trafficking treated at "Vatra" have not agreed to benefit this aid due to the fear of prejudice and stigmatization they may experience by representatives of state institutions where this economic aid is received or by the community in which they live.*

Rented flats

Upon assessment of the social group 3 beneficiaries treated in the Centre have left the centre and have been assisted in rented flats. The girls have been monitored by the coordinator and the social group based on a defined chart for the assessment of their employment situation, incomes, health, relationships with the family and situation at work and other issues of concern the beneficiaries have felt the need to discuss with the staff of Vatra.

The main problem of the victims has been the insecurity of stability at work and insufficient incomes they receive from employment. Given this situation, within the project funds and special funds of Vatra, time and again the staff has helped with food, payment of electricity, water, gas for cooking bills, and for other personal needs.

Provision with identity cards, birth certificates, passports

Close cooperation with the District Police Directorates, General Directorate of Registrars' Office and the Municipality Units and mainly with the Registrars' Office of Vlora, Korçë, Berat, Tirana, Elbasan, etc. has continued even this year, thus facilitating the registration process for the beneficiaries and their children in the respective registrars' offices and the issuance of certificates, identity cards or passports. During this year **38** beneficiaries have been issued birth certificates, **8** identity cards and **1 other a passport**.

Case monitoring and follow up

Case follow up and monitoring during the long-term reintegration process is a very important activity, which is attended very responsibly by Vatra's staff.

This process consists in numerous visits the social workers pay to the victims' families, in the rented flats where they live, in phone conversations with the beneficiaries, family members and their relatives. During the visits or phone conversations the progress of the case has been assessed and information has been provided on several services in the communities where they live. Therefore, Vatra's staff in the framework of membership in networks and coalitions in the country, has cooperated with organizations of these networks in districts, which work in support of the women and girls in need and have provided their services for the beneficiaries assisted by Vatra too.

From the assessment made during the case monitoring process, it resulted that the victims face numerous difficulties in the areas where they live such as: difficulties in finding employment, low salaries, high costs of rented flats, difficulties in coping with health problems due to the high costs, lack of interests from the local institutions in prioritizing them in solving numerous problems they have, etc.

During 2010 Vatra's staff has contacted and has conducted 81 visits to the families of the beneficiaries or in the offices of Vatra. Similarly, 129 phone calls have been made with the beneficiaries who have left the shelter.

Establishment and monitoring of micro-businesses

Since the main objective of Vatra is the reduction in the number of trafficked victims through the realization of programs for their reintegration in society, Vatra is working closely with other international donors and organizations for raising funds which are being used for the establishment of micro-businesses aiming the economic empowerment of the victims as the only successful alternative for their return to normality.

16 cases have been assessed during January-April 2010, **2** of which were given the opportunity to establish a micro-businesses (with IOM support) bringing to **8** the total number of micro-businesses established by Vatra with grants by international donors (Norwegian Church Aid, World Vision) in support of the victims.

These micro-businesses are monitored and followed up by Vatra' s staff every month in order to see closely their progress, the problems

and difficulties they encounter during the management of the business and alternatives and advice is provided for their solution, etc.

Other activities in the framework of the protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking and domestic violence

The National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters during this year has received great support by the USAID funded project "Strengthening Albanian Anti-Trafficking Capacities" implemented by IOM, in terms of conducting various meetings, activities, lobbying to the state institutions, etc.

Among other things, during June - July 2010, it undertook a series of activities and specifically:

a. Publication of leaflets, business cards and posters in order to disseminate information on services provided by NCATS' shelters.

b. Meetings at Border Police Stations: Kapshticë, Qafbotë, Kakavijë, Morinë, Hani i Hotit, Rinas, Port of Durrës. The NCATS, the activities and services provided in support of the victims of trafficking, the problem of identification and referral of victims, etc were introduced during these meetings. NCATS publications were distributed upon conclusion of the meetings and posters were put in the premises of the Border Points, highlighting all the services provided by the shelters, in order for all repatriated victims to have access to information about the services offered in their support.

The NCATS has already become a partner requested by national and international institutions operating in this field.

PROJECT: "Awareness raising campaign for sensitizing women, girls and young people on the risk represented by trafficking in human beings and the other negative phenomena that stem from it" September 2009 –February 2010

2

Funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna, (with Lindex funds).

The implementation of this project started in September 2009 and continued until February 2010. The areas of the implementation of the project have been: the Communes of Novoselë and Shushicë in the District of Vlora, Levan Commune and the Municipality of Roskovec in the District of Fier.

A series of activities have been conducted during the 2 month period (January – February 2010), among which:

Informative sessions with the students

Vatra Centre, for years has been cooperating closely with the Regional Directorates of Vlora and Fier Districts, with which it has signed collaboration agreements for the implementation of preventive activities in schools. Based on theses agreements, the professional staff of Vatra conducts informative sessions in high schools, during the courses of social education and sociology.

In this project, the informative sessions have been conducted in 4 high schools in the rural areas of: the Communes of Novoselë and Shushicë in the District of Vlora, Levan Commune and the Municipality of Roskovec in the District of Fier.

In cooperation with directorates of these schools 2 classes were selected for the conduction of 2 informative sessions per month. 12 sessions per month have been conducted in total.

Teachers have been appointed from each school serving as focal points and providing support for the project's staff in order to successfully realize the activities.

The sessions have been participatory and have included the presentation of the topic prepared by the specialist of Vatra, explanations, short stories and discussions about them. The knowledge gained during these sessions has been assessed at their completion. To ensure consistency in informing the students during and after project's implementation, Vatra' s staff, in cooperation with the focal points at schools, have assigned in each class a group of 4-5 students who have continued to disseminate the information to other students.

32 informative sessions have been conducted during the period January-February 2010 in the aforementioned schools with the participation of **374** students (from 300 foreseen in the project). Topics such as: "Trafficking in human beings", "The consequences of human trafficking on the individual and society", "Parents- children-school relationships, an important factor for the education of the new generation." etc, were treated together with these students and leaflets and other sensitizing materials were distributed.

Informative sessions with women and girls of the Roma community and the community as a whole

Informative sessions with the participation of the women and girls of the Roma community the community as a whole have been conducted in the framework of the project, in the areas where the project has been implemented. The project's staff, in cooperation with the focal points in these areas, has formed groups composed of 15-20 people and 2 meetings per month have been conducted with each group. Different social topics foreseen in the project have been addressed during the informative sessions as well as other topics of interest for the women and girls. During January-February 2010 12 informative sessions have been conducted in the Communes of Shushicë, Novoselë and Levan with the participation of 134 women and girls of the Roma community and the community as a whole (from 60 foreseen in the project).

Workshop with the community and the local institutions

On 26 January, "Vatra" Centre organized in the Municipality of Roskovec in the district of Fier the workshop with the topic **"Cooperation between school-society-family, an important factor for the education of the new generation".**

It was selected in cooperation with the Mayor and the director of "Adem Vrapi" high school because, given the characteristics of the area, the topic needed addressing and more information was to be given to the community.

More specifically, the issues treated in this workshop were: "The importance of school in the education of young people", "Positive and negative aspects in bilateral relations between teachers and students", "The family as the basic institution for the education of the new generation", etc.

60 people participated in this workshop. The participants were teachers of the secondary and high schools, doctors and nurses of the

health centre, representatives of the municipality, high school students, etc.

Upon conclusion of the workshop, the prevention staff distributed the leaflets prepared for this activity (50 copies) and other publications of "Vatra" Centre such as bulletins, brochures, etc. It is worth mentioning the presence of one of the local media in this activity. Through this activity awareness raising of the community was extended beyond the borders of a single commune.

Radio talk

In February, the project coordinator and the lawyer of the Centre participated in a radio talk on **"Crime and violence in today's Albanian society"** conducted in one of the city's local radios. During this talk, Vatra's experts touched upon many aspects of this issue bringing their experience from the direct work with the target groups in need.

The purpose of the radio talk was the sensitizing and awareness raising of the community on the phenomenon of crime and violence in the Albanian society.

Publication of brochures

The leaflet with the topic "Stop drugs! Change your life!" was prepared and published in February. This leaflet contains information about the types of drugs, focusing mainly on the negative impact each of them has on the body, mental health, social and professional life of the user. The leaflet was realized in 1000 copies and it was further distributed to young people, high school teachers, Regional Educational Directorates in the District of Vlora and Fier and to the community aiming their awareness raising on this phenomenon.

PROJECT: "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.

Funded by the American Embassy.

This project was undertaken in the framework of the work of Vatra' s staff for sensitizing and informing the public opinion about violence in family and society and in particular on the Law " On measures against violence in family relationships." Similarly, an important aspect of this project is the monitoring of the institutions in charge of the enforcement of this important Law in protection of the victims of domestic violence.

Since the beginning of the project the staff's work was focused on establishing contacts and signing cooperation agreements with the state institutions and NGOs with whom we would work.

Since Vatra has cooperated with the Educational Directorate in the District of Vlora from 1999 and onwards in the framework of the community awareness raising projects on the risk represented by the phenomena such as human trafficking, violence and crime in the family, drugs, etc, work of the project's staff was facilitated in the process of selecting the schools where a component of the project would be realized, i.e. that of informative sessions with the students of the secondary educational cycle. The activities implemented for the period September –December 2010 include:

Establishment of contacts and monitoring of Communes in Vlora District

This process has been conducted during September and October 2010. Cooperation agreements have been signed with **9** communes and **4** municipalities of Vlora District and forms have been filled in by the employees of communes that receive and guide the victims of domestic violence coming to the commune. The aim of filling in the form is to receive information on the establishment or non establishment social services structure for the domestic violence issues within the commune (as foreseen in the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships") and monitoring of commune's activity on the phenomenon of domestic violence.

The monitoring showed that

only the Municipality of Vlora has established such a structure which operates with one social worker who works at the offices of "Vatra" Centre. Apart from the Municipality of Vlora, **the social services structure for the domestic violence issues has not been established in any of the other communes and municipalities of Vlora District (Municipalities of Orikum, Himarë and Selenicë)** and the Heads of these institutions state that **"They do not have sufficient funds to establish and maintain this structure".**

Also, the misinterpretation of the social worker's role is obvious. When the Heads or other employees of communes and municipalities have been asked if there are social workers at their institution addressing domestic violence issues, they have responded positively and have oriented us to the economic aid employee or social administrators, meanwhile it is understandable that these positions are very different from each-other. Although these persons are attributed even the task of social worker who must follow the cases of domestic violence as well, they are untrained and uninformed about the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships."

Establishment of contacts and monitoring of Courts, Prosecution Office, Bailiff's Office and Police institutions.

During September contacts were established in these institutions and requests were submitted for receiving information by Vatra' s staff, which have been accepted and readiness has been shown for collaboration in the coming months. This was followed by the monitoring process which has been conducted based on concrete cases, victims of domestic violence who have been assisted by Vatra. The abovementioned institutions have been supervised in their management of the cases of domestic violence in the framework of the implementation of the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships".

Also, information has been received on the number of cases of domestic violence presented to Court, Prosecution Office, Bailiff's Office and Police. This was done in order to have a general overview of the phenomenon of domestic violence in the district of Vlora and understand how widespread and problematic this phenomenon is.

Police

The monitoring of the Domestic Violence Unit at the Police has shown that this institution has been correct and ready to fill in the lawsuits for Immediate Protection Orders for the cases of domestic violence. Similarly, even in the cases of violation of the Protection Orders, the police officers have completed the documentation and have sent it immediately to the Prosecution Office of Vlora District.

However, there have been 2 cases in which the victim of violence has been provided only advice by Police because "there were not any signs of violence on the body", regardless of the psychological violence the person may have suffered. These cases have come to our Centre, the problem has been introduced and Vatra's staff has contacted the employees of the violence sector at the Police and both cases have been given solutions.

Courts

Until now it has been observed that the Vlora District Court has met the legal deadline of 48 hours for the issuance of the Immediate Protection Order, but the deadline for decision's proclamation by the court has not been observed, thus leading to delays (in most cases assisted by Vatra Centre decisions for the issuance of the Immediate Protection Order (IPO) or Protection Order (PO) have been proclaimed even after 10 days or 1 month). Such delays have caused the failure to submit on time the IPO or PO to the Police Station, Office of Social Services of the Municipality of Vlora and Bailiff's Office. Failure to submit these orders to these institutions on time has caused delays even in the enforcement of the decision and as a result has allowed for violence continue and has aggravated the situation of the victims of domestic violence.

Despite the direct monitoring of the cases by the Project Coordinator in Court and in other involved institutions, this issue has been observed also from the review of the files made available by the Specialist of Domestic Violence Sector at the Office of Social Services of the Municipality of Vlora. The IPO and PO have been submitted to the Specialist of Domestic Violence Sector with delays of even more than 2 months. *(The Immediate Protection Order is determined only for a deadline of 20 days from its issuance by the Court).*

It should be emphasized that the Court, **within 24 hours** *from the issuance of the Immediate Protection Order and Protection Order, must send:*

- *two copies to the plaintiff;*
- *one copy to the defendant;*
- *one copy to the* Office of Social Services *of the Municipality of Vlora;*
- *one copy to the Police Station of Vlora.*

As we have highlighted even in the analysis that we conducted in the introduction of this report on domestic violence, it is imperative to review and amend in the Law the deadline for the issuance and proclamation of the Immediate Protection Order from 48 hours to the minimum of 12 hours from the moment the victims submit the request to obtain this Order.

Prosecution Office

In relation to cases of violation of Protection Orders it has been

observed that although the Police have sent the case immediately to the Vlora District Prosecution Office, **by this institution there have been delays and prolongations in the investigation process.** Delays in taking criminal measures against perpetrators become a cause for the continuation of violence, recurrence of violent situations up murders of the victims of violence.

Similarly, another fact identified during the monitoring of cases treated by this institution is that even in cases when the prosecution office has completed the investigation process, the prosecutor has required punitive measures against the perpetrator for violation of the Protection Order consisting of a "fine up to 50 000 LEK". Certainly, this not only has this measure failed to affect the perpetrator, but on the contrary it resulted in the perpetrator becoming more aggressive not only towards the victim of violence but also towards the staff of our organization that treat this victim. It is necessary that in cases of violation of Immediate Protection Orders and Protection Orders, the prosecution office and the court impose more stringent measures for the perpetrator, including imprisonment.

Bailiff's Office

In the framework of the legal assistance provided for the victims of domestic violence, Vatra has monitored the enforcement of court decisions by the Bailiff's office, in Vlora.

It resulted that for 7 cases of court decisions for Immediate Protection Orders, Protection Orders, payment for alimony, etc. that we have submitted to this institution, not only there have been delays and prolongations in the process of e enforcement of decisions, but none of the requests has been executed .**This has come as a result of negligence by the employees of this institution, but also of fear to confront the perpetrators.**

Informative sessions with the young people of high schools

The prevention project is being implemented in 4 high schools in the city of Vlora, determined in cooperation with the Educational Directorate:

- "Naim Frashëri" high school of art;
- "Pavarësia" professional high school;
- "Jani Minga" professional high school;
- "Tregtare" professional high school.

Collaboration agreements were signed in September with the Directors of these schools who showed readiness to be committed for the successful implementation of the project.

Another objective was the assignment of focal points in the abovementioned schools. So, 4 focal points have been assigned (one for each school) who continue, on a voluntary basis, the dissemination of information and distribution of sensitizing materials in the community.

Images from the informative sessions with the young people of high schools

Informative sessions with the beneficiaries in the shelter

Apart from informative sessions conducted with the young people of high schools other such sessions are conducted with the women and girls of "Vatra" shelter. Both target-groups addressed topics such as: "Domestic violence: Presentation of the current situation in Albania", "Causes, forms and consequences of domestic violence", "Gender equality and domestic violence", "The role of media in broadcasting violence. To what extent and in what manner is violence affecting the behaviour of young people?" etc. Leaflets have been designed on these topics, which along with other sensitizing materials of "Vatra" Centre have been distributed at the end of each informative session.

60 informative sessions have been conducted during September-December 2010, of which **56** in the high schools included in the project and **4** with the women and girls of "Vatra" shelter. **362** high school students have participated in these sessions and **20** women and girls of "Vatra" shelter.

Trainings for representatives of state and non-state institutions

3 trainings with representatives of the institutions responsible for the enforcement of the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships" have been foreseen in the framework of the project, of which:

- training with social workers from: state social service,

municipalities and communes of the district, NGOs;
- training with representatives of police, court, prosecution office of the district and the bailiff's office in Vlora;
- training with teachers, psychologists and sociologists of secondary and high schools of the city.

The first training was conducted on 6 December with the topic **"Social and legal aspects of domestic violence"**

This training was conducted with the participation of social workers from: the Regional Office of the State Social Service, municipalities and communes of the district, and representatives of NGOs operating in the district of Vlora. The training with the above groups aimed at increasing the level of information of participants about the phenomenon of domestic violence, family crime and the Albanian legislation in protection of the victims of violence.

The training was conducted by specialists of the legal and social field and was divided in two sessions:

In the first session information was provided about issues such as: definition of violence, types of violence, causes for the emergence and consequences of this phenomenon, features and characteristics of violated women, features and characteristics of men perpetrators.

In the second session information was provided on current bodies that fight domestic violence, ways of preventing this phenomenon and remedies of the Albanian and international legislation for the prevention and protection of victims of violence.

Images from the training with employees of State Social Service, Office of Economic and Social Aid of the Municipality, social administrators of communes, representatives of NGOs.

The two other trainings with representatives of legal institutions and psychologists of high schools will be conducted during the 2011.

Activities in the framework of 16 Days of Activism Against Violence (25 November-10 December)

Besides the activity presented above, the following activities were conducted in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence against Women (25 November– 10 December):

On 25 November, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and being the first of the 16 days of activism against violence against woman, "Vatra" Centre, in collaboration with the Municipality of Vlora, Directorate of Public Health (DSHSH), "Aulona" Centre and the high schools of the city, organized a public march in the streets of the city in order to join together and state with a single voice "Stop Violence against Women!" The participants in this march held placards with sensitizing messages against violence and distributed leaflets to the community.

Additionally on the same day, the Municipality of Vlora enabled the realization and placing of a banner in the main street of the city with the message "Together against violence in family and society!".

Banner placed in the city centre with the message "Together against violence in family and society!". Realized with the support of the Municipality of Vlora.

High school students holding sensitizing placards on the Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

On 10 December 2010, International Human Rights Day, which marked the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence, "Vatra" Centre in collaboration with "Naim Frasheri" high school of arts, organized an exhibition of paintings against violence realized by students of painting of this school. This activity was aimed at sensitizing the community about such a negative phenomenon like domestic violence and this sensitizing was intended

to be realized differently, in order to attract even more the community's attention.

About 40 paintings were exhibited in the city's theatre hall with the presence of students, teachers and other community members. During this time, a group of students of "Naim Frashëri" school were playing violin parts in conformity with the topic of the activity. The activity saw the participation of the local media which showed great interest in reflecting it in their television programs.

At the conclusion of the activity 3 awards were granted to students for the three best paintings of the exhibition, following an evaluation from the specialists of the field.

Winning painting in the exhibition realized with the "Naim Frasheri", high school of arts, in Vlora.

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence, Vatra's staff have also distributed sensitizing materials against violence such as: leaflets, brochures, bulletins, etc.

Other activities

Two activities were conducted **in the framework of the European Day Against Human Trafficking**, on 20 October 2010:

1. **Competition with the students of the pedagogical high school "Jani Minga" in the city of Vlora**

In collaboration with the Directorate of the school students who were present in the informative sessions conducted by Vatra's staff during the sensitizing projects were selected for participation in this competition. This activity was conducted in collaboration with the Child Protection Unit, at the Municipality of Vlora aiming the awareness raising of young people about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. Sensitizing was aimed to be comprehensive for the young participants.

2. **Sensitizing and informative activities in public premises of the city of Vlora**

In this framework Vatra' s staff, the Child Protection Unit in Vlora and high school students distributed in the city of Vlora informative and sensitizing materials such as: leaflets, posters, brochures with information on human trafficking and in particular on trafficking in

children. A banner was placed in the main street of the city, carrying the message **"For a life without violence and exploitation"**. This banner was realized by the Municipality of Vlora.

In the framework of the Day Against Violence Against Children, on 19 November 2010, during an activity that the Child Protection Unit of the Municipality of Vlora was organizing in the Palace of Culture of the city, the social group of the project distributed leaflets, brochures and publications of Vatra Centre. These materials contained sensitizing messages against domestic violence.

The project "Monitoring of the local government institutions for the implementation of the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships" and "information of the public opinion on the prevention of family crime", will be implemented until the end of June 2011. Monitoring of the Court, Prosecution Office, Police and Bailiff's Office communes and municipalities of the district of Vlora, will continue during January-June 2011 accompanied with the conduction of informative sessions in the high schools selected for this project, sensitizing of community through distribution of awareness raising materials and organization of a series of other activities such as trainings, radio talks, workshops, etc.

Services in the centre

Legal assistance and counselling (In the counselling offices, Police, Court, and Prosecution Office)

The lawyer of the Centre has offered legal assistance not only to cases referred and assisted in the shelter, but at the same time to all beneficiaries that Vatra treats in the family, to beneficiaries who are referred by various state and non-state institutions in order for them to receive the services in the prevention offices of Vatra or at the Police, Court and Prosecution Office.

Specifically:

- The lawyer of the Centre has followed the legal procedures for 2 victims of trafficking to obtain compensation (one of them through cooperation with the Centre for Legal and Civic Initiatives in Tirana).
- 78 victims of domestic violence have received legal counselling and assistance during this year in the process of: issuance of Immediate Protection Orders and Protection Orders (38 Immediate Protection Orders and 11 Protection Orders), in the proceedings for divorce, child custody, registration of children in the registrar's office,

enforcement of court decision, etc.

Counselling session with the centre's lawyer

Psychological Counselling

Individual counselling has been provided by the Centre's psychologist in the framework of services provided by the Prevention Office of Vatra. Counselling was provided to the following target-groups:

- Students of secondary and high schools;
- Children accompanied by parents;
- Women and girls;
- Other community members.

The service of Vatra' s psychologist is being increasingly requested This is due to the quality of service and positive results this service has provided in all treated cases. During 2010, 153 psychological counselling sessions were conducted in total, of which 57 with students of schools, 78 with women and girls, 12 with children and 6 with other community members (men and boys).

CAPACITY BUILDING OF VATRA'S STAFF

One of the main objectives of "Vatra" Centre is the ongoing work aiming the strengthening and capacity building of its staff. In the framework of the programs approved in the annual plan, Vatra conducts trainings, various workshops in its offices for the preparation and qualification of its staff. Thus, during this year trainings have been conducted with Vatra' s staff on topics such as: project management from idea to implementation, standards for residential centres for the victims of trafficking, management of cases in the shelter, management of emergency situations in the shelter, social and legal aspects of domestic violence and human trafficking, etc.

With support of the USAID funded project "Strengthening Albanian Anti-Trafficking Capacities" implemented by IOM, the Executive Director of Vatra attended a 3-month postgraduate course on Management at Private Institution of Higher Education (ISSAT). Additionally, in order to increase the effectiveness in terms of working directly with the beneficiaries in the shelter, for the period July - September 2010, the shelter's staff: social worker, psychologist, lawyer, doctor, coordinator and Executive Director, were included in sessions on stress relief by an external psychologist contracted by IOM.

Besides the trainings conducted on the basis of the annual program of the Centre, Vatra makes use of every other possibility offered by other national and international organizations through activities organized by them, giving the opportunity to the staff to participate and grow professionally.

Some of the main activities in which Vatra's staff has participated include as follows:

- 2 March 2010 - participation in the Regional Roundtable on Community Policing, organized by the Ministry of Interior and OSCE, in Vlora.

- 19 March 2010 - participation in the Roundtable with the theme: "Aspects of the Implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence and the Law "On measures against violence in family relationships" A challenge for all responsible actors. Achievements and objectives" organized by the Centre for Legal and Civic Initiatives in Tirana.

- 11-12 March 2010 - participation in the meeting with the theme "Networking Meeting in Albania" organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna in Tirana.
- 22-24 March 2010 - participation in the 3-day training with the theme "EU Grants Application Procedures. Successful Writing of Project Proposals" organized by TACSO in Vlora.
- 8-9 April 2010 - participation in the 2-day workshop on "Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims or Potential Victims of Trafficking" organized by USAID, IOM, Office of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, in Tirana.
- 14 April 2010 - participation in the meeting with the theme "On human rights protection in the return of trafficked persons to the countries of origin" organized by the OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw, Poland
- 6-8 May 2010 - participation in the Conference with the theme "Reaching out to change- A place for exchange, networking and inspiring completion" organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna in Montenegro.
- 14 May, 2010 - participation in the training with the theme "Secondary Trauma" organized by IOM, in Tirana.
- 18 May 2010 - participation in the meeting with the theme "On the support of Eastern European countries on capacity building of Police to stop trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal immigration" organized by ADA (Austrian Development Agency), in Tirana.
- 3-4 June 2010 - participation in the national conference with the theme "Confrontation with gender stereotypes" organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Directorate of Equal Opportunities Policies and family", in Tirana.
- 29-30 June 2010 - participation in the study visit in London with the theme "Direct assistance to victims of trafficking" organized by OSCE/ODIHR.
- 30 June 2010 - participation in the ceremony on the occasion of 234th anniversary of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America, organized by the American Embassy in Tirana.
- 8 July 2010 - participation in a roundtable with Mrs. Cherrie Blair at the residence of the British Embassy in Tirana, for the local experts on the problems of trafficking and domestic violence in Albania.

- 6 October 2010 - participation in the "Meeting with the technical groups in the framework of the evaluation and review of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007-2010", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in Tirana.

- 5-7 October 2010 - participation in the Training with the theme "Implementation of standards of social care services in residential centres for the trafficked persons or persons at risk to be trafficked", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in cooperation with UNICEF and ANTTARC in Vlora with the participation of all the shelter's staff.

- 12-14 October 2010 - participation in the workshop with the theme "The fight against trafficking for forced labour in Europe, the first steps" organized by the International Confederation of Trade Unions, Inter-European Regional Council in cooperation with ITUC-PERC and Antislavery International in Brussels.

- 21 October 2010 - participation in the Launching of the Pilot Phase of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims or Potential Victims of Trafficking organized by USAID, the Ministry of Interior, Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator and IOM, in Tirana.

- 25-28 October 2010 - participation in the study visit "The fight against domestic violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey" organized by the European Commission, in Brussels.

- 10 November 2010 - participation in the workshop with the theme "Improving the reporting" organized by the American Embassy, in Tirana.

- 10-11 November 2010 - participation in the Regional Meeting on the Orientation of the Basic Structures for the Implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures for the identification and referral of the victims of trafficking, organized by IOM with the financial support of USAID, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ministry of Interior, in Gjirokastra.

- 12-14 November 2010 - participation in Freja Forum with the theme "Economic Mobility" organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna, in Macedonia.

- 2-3 December 2010 - participation in the training with the theme "Capacity building of regional committees, in the fight against trafficking in human beings" organized by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with OSCE, in Vlora.

- 10 December 2010 - participation in the National Conference "Violence is a crime, violence kills if you remain silent, Say Stop to domestic violence! Presentation of the National Referral Mechanism for the referral of the cases of domestic violence", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in Tirana.

Besides the participation in various national and international activities, the staff of Vatra has been invited as an expert in different consultative meetings, trainings or publications realized by state, non-state, national and international institutions.

Specifically:

- In the framework of drafting the Standard Operating Procedures for the identification and referral of the victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with IOM conducted in May - November 2010, a series of consultative meetings. Vatra, based on the expertise of 12 years of work in the field of anti-trafficking, has participated in all these meetings and has given its contribution to their improvement.

- Similarly, this year the Ministry of Interior drafted the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy 2011 - 2013 and Action Plan. As it was the case with previous anti-trafficking strategies, even this time Vatra' s staff contributed to the improvement of this important document, especially to the section on internal trafficking.

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the framework of drafting the National Strategy on Gender Equality, Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women 2011-2015, invited Vatra in the consultative meeting organized for attracting ideas and opinions for improving this document.

- *18 June 2010*. Training on "Theoretical and practical aspects of trafficking in human beings and judicial practices, theoretical and practical aspects in view of International Conventions". This activity was realized in Tirana, supported by the USAID funded project "Strengthening Albanian Anti-Trafficking Capacities" implemented by IOM. Participants in this training

were prosecutors, judges and lawyers from different districts of the country.

- *24 June 2010*. Training on "Capacity Building on Human Trafficking issues for the state, local, social structures and social administrators". This activity was realized in Lushnje , supported by the USAID funded project "Strengthening Albanian Anti-Trafficking Capacities" implemented by IOM. Participants in this training were social workers from Structures of Regional Social Services and municipalities (Vlora, Fier, Lushnje).

- In June the Gender Alliance for Development Centre, in Tirana realized the publication of "On the Third Periodic Report of the Albanian Government for the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women." The organizations of the Albania Women Empowering Network AEWN and the Network Against Gender Based Violence and Trafficking gave their contributions to this report. In this report Vatra acted as the expert on issues of trafficking in females and domestic violence. This report was presented at the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, held on 19-26 July 2010 by representatives of organizations of AWEN network and Network Against Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking.

VISITS AND EVALUATIONS FROM HIGH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Since its creation and onwards the work and efforts of Vatra in the fight against human trafficking and domestic violence, have been evaluated by high national and international institutions.

Even this year, on 25 June, "Vatra" Centre was visited by the Ambassador of the United States of America, John L. Withers II. During this visit, Mr. Ambassador, saw closely the work of "Vatra" in support of victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence, and met with the beneficiaries in the shelter. During the meeting with them he listened attentively to the problems and difficulties they encounter during their reintegration process into social life. Mr. Ambassador at the conclusion of his visit, assured the beneficiaries and Vatra' s staff that the American Embassy and the U.S. State Department will continue to support and contribute to the reduction of human trafficking and domestic violence in Albania.

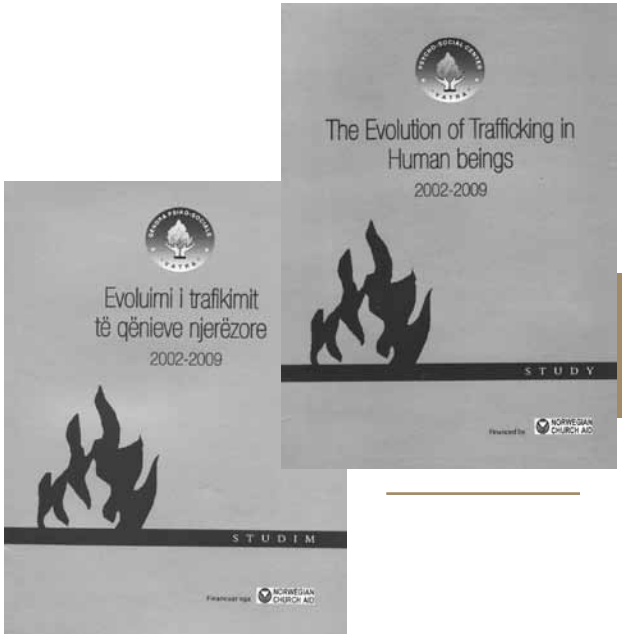
PUBLICATION

In the framework of the projects implemented, Vatra's staff despite the sensitizing activities (workshops, trainings, radio and TV talks, roundtables, sensitizing activities in public premises) realizes also publications such as: Annual Report, studies, sensitizing materials (posters, brochures, leaflets), etc. Publications have been considered as a very important means for transmitting information directly to the community, state institutions, NGOs, etc. Likewise, Vatra's website (www.qendravatra.org.al) provides updated information about the activities that Vatra conducts, collaboration partners, financial donors, etc. During 2010, Vatra realized the following publications:

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

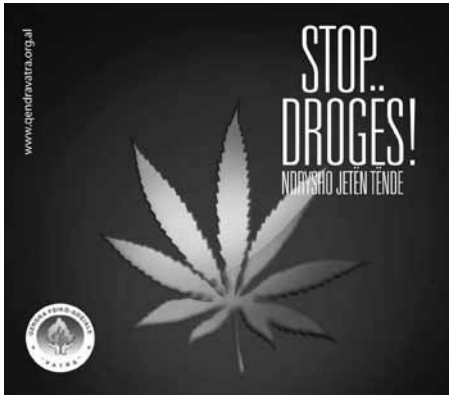
Since 2000, Vatra Centre has turned the publication of the annual report a tradition of its work. The report introduces: an analysis of the situation of the phenomena it treats, implemented projects with the relevant activities and services, achievements, priorities for the future, recommendations, detailed financial report including projects, relevant donors (sources of funding), expenditures for each project, audititing reports, etc. In April 2010, Vatra published the Annual Report 2009 with the financial support of the Norwegian Church Aid. In this framework Vatra is publishing this Annual Report 2010 with the financial support of USAID through IOM.

"EVOLUTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS 2002-2009" - STUDY



This study was undertaken in the framework of the project funded by OSCE /ODIHR "Strengthening assistance and protection of victims of trafficking" developed and implemented by "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre in collaboration with the presence of OSCE in Albania (OSCE PiA) during 30 April 2007 - 30 April 2008.

The objectives of this study were the presentation of: the development of human trafficking in Albania since 2002 until 2009, social and psychological situation of victims of trafficking, Vatra's work and contribution in support of the victims as well as recommendations for improving protection and assistance to victims of trafficking . The publication of the study was made possible with the financial support of the Norwegian Church Aid.



"STOP THE DRUGS! CHANGE YOUR LIFE!"- BROCHURE

The brochure was realized in the framework of the project "Awareness raising campaign for sensitizing women, girls and young people, on the risk represented by trafficking in human beings and the other negative phenomena that stem from it" funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna. The brochure has provided information on the types of drugs, their impact on people, consequences caused by their use, how it causes addiction, etc. The leaflet has been mainly distributed to young people of high schools in order to raise their awareness on the negative effects of drug use.

"BREAK SILENCE! DENOUNCE VIOLENCE!"- POSTER

The poster was published in the framework of the project: "Monitoring of local government institutions or the implementation of the Law" On measures against violence in family relationships and informing the public opinion on the prevention of family crime" funded by the U.S. Embassy. This poster was placed in public premises, secondary schools and high schools.

All the above publications will continue to be distributed in the framework of the sensitizing projects that Vatra implements in the community.

VATRA' S PRIORITIES FOR THE YEARS 2011 – 2013

Aiming the successful achievement of the objectives in the framework of our mission, the priorities of "Vatra" Centre during 2011 – 2013 will be as follows:

1. Continue our work and efforts in terms of preventing human trafficking and domestic violence as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of these phenomena.

2. Lobby to the Albanian Government for the effective implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2013, in order to mitigate human trafficking, in particular the exploitation of females within the country which will have an impact the decrease of the number of victims of human trafficking.

3. Lobby to the Albanian Government for the effective implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Reduction of Gender-Based Violence, 2011-2015 and include in its priorities the establishment of a considerable number of multifunctional emergency centres extended in every district for the assistance of the victims of domestic violence.

4. Lobby in collaboration with other members of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters to state central institutions to exclude from payment of fees the victims of trafficking seeking compensation following the conviction of their traffickers.

5. Lobby to the Albanian Government, in particular to the Office of National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, for giving give the social status to the victim of trafficking[4].

4. By obtaining the social status the victim of trafficking will benefit a number of rights in the framework of the reintegration process: the right to housing, the right to a defence lawyer in cases when they denounce traffickers, the right to free health assistance, the right to stable and long-term employment, etc.

6. Increase contacts and coordination of joint actions with international organizations that provide assistance to victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence.

7. Include in the ongoing programs the psychological and psycho-emotional assistance even for men perpetrators, aiming their psychological rehabilitation and as a result the minimization of violence against women and children.

8. Strengthen the collaboration with national and international networks to which we are members and make efforts to be included in new networks and coalitions in order to share the best policies and practices, advocacy and lobbying, partnership building on joint projects, etc.

9. Based on Vatra 's 3 – year strategic plan 2011-2013, priority will be given to the establishment of a daily multi-disciplinary centre for children in need.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF"VATRA" PSYCHO SOCIAL CENTRE,1 JANUARY 2010 - 31 DECEMBER 2010

PROJECTS AND DONORS OF " VATRA "PSYCHO SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE YEAR 2010

No	Projects	Donor	Period	Remained fund from 2009	Budget	Fund sent during 2010	Total incomes	Expenses	Exchange gain/lost	Real Difference
1	"Rehabilitation and reintegration centre for the trafficked violated women and girls and those at risk "	Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	May 2009- May 2010	19893,46	19893,46	25360,72	45254,18	45221,38	-16,47	16,33
2	"Awareness raising campaign for sensitizing women, girls and young people on the risk represented by trafficking in human beings and the other negative phenomena that stem from it"	Kvinna Till Kvinna (Sweden)	Sept. 2009 -Feb. 2010	4039,17	4039,17	0,00	4039,17	4035,98	-0,93	2,26
3	"Rehabilitation and reintegration centre for the trafficked, violated women and girls and those at risk "	World Learning (with USAID funds)	May 2009 -Jan. 2010	740,35	740,35	2050,00	2790,35	2783,91	0,00	6,44
4	"Accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration shelter for the trafficked, clandestine, violated and at risk to be trafficked in human trafficking".	The Singrid Rausing TRUST	Nov. 2009 - October 2010	3,37	24580,37	24577,50	24580,87	24569,03	-3,47	8,37
5	"Community service centre for the women and girls in need".	Kvinna Till Kvinna (Sweden)	May 2010- Dec. 2010	0,00	29050,00	29050,00	29050,00	29043,43	-3,88	2,69
6	"Accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration shelter for trafficked, those at risk and violated girls and women".	USAID through IOM	Jan. 2010 - Sept. 2010	0,00	47452,00	47452,00	47452,00	47452	-1,31	-1,31
7	Accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration shelter for the trafficked, violated girls and women and those at risk".	Austrian Development Agency	May 2010 - Sept. 2010	0,00	10000,00	10000	10000,00	10000,00	0,00	0,00
8	"Increase of the sustainability of "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre in the framework of providing direct assistance to women, girls in need and children accompanied by their mothers.	NCA Norwegian Church Aid	July 2010 - Dec. 2010	0,00	5810,00	6163,21	6163,21	6162,35	-0,05	0,81
9	"Direct assistance to girls and women, victims of domestic violence, victims of trafficking, those at risk for their rehabilitation and reintegration in the social life".	SOROS Foundation	July 2010 - July 2011	0,00	17690,00	9163,42	9163,42	8563,06	0,27	600,63
10	"Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former Albanian victims of trafficking"	USAID through IOM	Oct. 2010 - August 2011	0,00	53005,00	10067,53	10067,53	9839,68	0,00	227,85
11	"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 ".	The Singrid Rausing TRUST	Nov. 2010 -Oct. 2011	0,00	29377,00	29377,20	29377,20	749,30	0,00	28627,90
12	"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".	American Embassy in Albania	Sept. 2010- June 2011	0,00	14912,00	7839,37	7839,37	3979,39	-1,15	3858,83
14	Solidarity contribution	Psycho - Social Center " Vatra "	Jan. 2010- Dec. 2010	2497,94	2497,94	2837,44	5335,38	483,97	0,01	4851,42
	Total (EUR)			**27174,29**	**259047,29**	**203938,39**	**231112,68**	**192883,48**	**-26,98**	**38202,22**

Donors have funded in different currencies: EUR, USD, LEK. In the table above has been used the EUR currency . There have been used these exchange rates:
1 EUR= 137 LEK and 1 EUR = 1.41 USD.

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Report of the independent auditors
To the Psyco-Social Center
to attention of
Madam Bikena Puka
Director's of the Center

Subject : ALBANIA : Anti-trafficking - Rehabilitation and Reintegration Project

In our capacity of independent auditors, we have undertaken an examination of internal final financial statements from the May 11, 2009 to the May 10 2010 for the Program "Anti-trafficking Rehabilitation and Reintegration", NCA N° 130020 These statements are the responsibility of the management . Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these statements based on our examination.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards of Auditing (Exceptions : see General comment thereto) Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements, in consideration with the notes thereto, present fairly, in material respect, the funds received and expended for the period under review in accordance with the donor's instructions, using the cash basis method of accounting.

Geneva the 8 July, 2010
Recor & Partners S.A.

Enclosures : Financial Project Report "Trafficking rehabilitation and reintegration"
Notes attached to the Project

Auditor's Report

To the Executive Director of the Association

Qendra Psiko Sociale "VATRA"

Vlora, Albania

We have audited the accompanying statement of sources and uses of funds of Qendra Psiko - Sociale "Vatra" Vlora - Albania (the Organization) for the period November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010 related to the project "Shelter for Trafficked Girl and Women, Violated and Clandestine and Those at Risk of Human Being Trafficking" (the Project) pursuant to the "Agreement" made by Qendra VATRA and The Sigrid Rausing TRUST (the grantor), dated November 04, 2009. The implementation period was expected to be 12 months of the date of the agreement. The Statement comprise the statements of sources and uses of funds, statement of changes in cash balance as at 31 October 2010, cash flow statement for the year than ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management of the organization is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these statements of sources and uses of funds in accordance with National Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant go to preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud and error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

The Organization's policy is to prepare the statement of income and expenditures on the cash receipt and disbursement basis. On this basis, revenue is recognized when received rather than earned and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred.

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these statements based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Auditing and in accordance with TRUST audit instructions. The accounts and reports have been drawn up in accordance with TRUST instructions and National Accounting Standards. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of the expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the statement of sources and uses of funds give a true and fair view, in all materials respects, the financial position of Qendra VATRA Vlora, Albania, as of 31 October 2010, the revenue collected and the expenses paid by the Organization relative to the project "Shelter for Trafficked Girl and Women, Violated and Clandestine and Those at Risk of Human Being Trafficking" in accordance with the cash receipt and disbursement basis as described above.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Sigrid Rausing TRUST and the management of Qendra VATRA Vlora, Albania and should not be used for any other purpose.

"Inter BBK – Auditing" ltd

Tirana December 10, 2010

Esmeralda BALLUKU

Partner

AUDITING Sh.p.k
INTER B.B.K
TIRANA - ALBANIA