QENDRA PSIKO-SOCIALE "VATRA"

Annual Report

2017

Norwegian Embassy

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Vlora, 2018

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Norwegian Embassy

Introduction

Dear readers,

"Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre has published this Annual Report for 2017, which presents the activities carried out in the framework of the projects implemented throughout the year, the funding donors, cooperation partners, annual expenses and the audit reports.

In the framework of its mission, respectively *"the prevention of trafficking in human beings and community violence, the protection and social inclusion of the victims of such phenomena by means of information, education and advocacy programmes, and community and residential social services.",* "Vatra" has performed a significant number of activities and services during this year, which have contributed to: Raising public awareness on the risk posed by the phenomena of trafficking in human beings, domestic violence and other problems that these phenomena give rise to;

Improving the social status of a significant number of victims of trafficking and domestic violence;

Strengthening the capacities of employees of public structures and NGOs in order to identify and support the victims of trafficking in human beings and violence.

Expanding partnership with public and non-public, national and international institutions.

During 2017, as a member of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking, as well as a member of the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters, Vatra has participated in the working group for the drafting of: The Draft Standard Operating Procedures for the identification, referral and protection of Victims/Potential Victims of Trafficking (draft), the draft

National Action Plan on Anti-trafficking 2018-2020, which is actually being consulted with stakeholders at the local and national level.

Also, as a member of the "Justice for all" Coalition (JFA), Vatra and its experts have contributed and are still contributing to the improvement of various laws, draft-laws and strategies such as: the Strategy for Public Legal Education (draft), the Law "On legal aid", "social housing", "on social care services", the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Criminal Code with a focus on the amendments referring to the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, violence, abuse and child abuse.

During this year, Vatra has actively participated in the responses of the civil society in the country, whenever there have been violations to the rights of the victims of trafficking and violence, and the rights of children. This year, like any other year, relevant inputs and recommendations have been provided by the experts of "Vatra" to the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report of the US Department of State, as well as to the Progress Report 2017 of the European Commission.

In this report, in addition to the activities performed and services provided, "Vatra" identifies its cooperators at the local, central and international level, whom we thank for their support and cooperation during these years, and especially during 2017.

I would also like to thank the dedicated staff of Vatra, to whom we owe the success of our organization, despite the challenges and difficulties faced during our work in support of the victims of trafficking and violence.

Sincerely,
Brikena Puka
Executive Director

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VATRA PROGRAMMES

In support of its vision, mission and 2013-2017 Strategy, even during 2017 Vatra has continued its work for the implementation of the programmes:

Prevention of human trafficking and gender-based violence/Information & Education

Strengthening the capacities of the employees of local government structures and NGOs, in order to effectively implement the national anti-trafficking and anti-violence policies.

Direct assistance for victims/potential victims of trafficking and gender-based violence

Lobbying and advocacy to protect the rights of women, girls and children.

I. PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

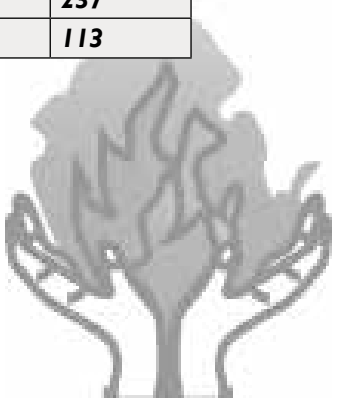
During 2017,Vatra Centre has proceeded with the reintegration programme for the victims/potential victims of trafficking and for the victims of violence.

123 program beneficiaries are victims/potential victims of trafficking, out of which **86** cases are victims/potential of trafficking as well as **37** are children of victims. **Out of these, 44 VoT/PVoT cases and 9 children were new cases** included in the program**. 42 beneficiaries and 28 children of beneficiaries are carried forward from 2016, which have been through the three phases of the program.**

Cases	*Carried forward from 2016*	New cases (2017)	***Total***
VoT/PVoT cases	*42*	*44*	***86***
Children of beneficiaries	*28*	*9*	***37***
Total	*70*	*53*	***123***

237 victims of domestic violence, out of which 212 new cases and 85 children of beneficiaries assisted for the first time during 2017, respectively 190 women and girls, 9 boys and men and 16 perpetrators.

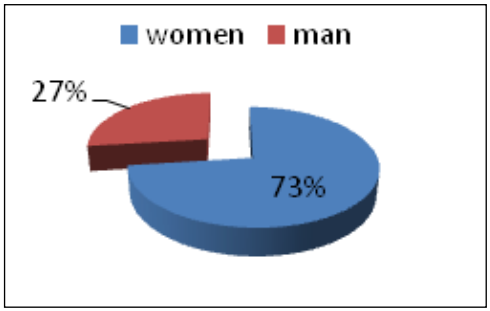
Cases	*Carried forward from 2016*	*New cases*	***Total***
Cases of domestic violence	*25*	***212***	***237***
Children of victims of violence	*28*	***85***	***113***



1.1 Profile of victims/potential victims of trafficking _

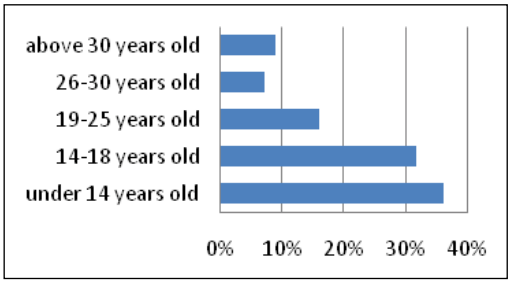
Gender

Of 44 cases assisted for the first time during this year, 73% are girls and women and 27% are boys,mainly minors. In comparison to the two previous years, the number of boys who are VoT/PVoTs has increased, due to the identification and the work of the Field Teams in Vlora and its administrative units. This has a direct impact on all variables analysed below.



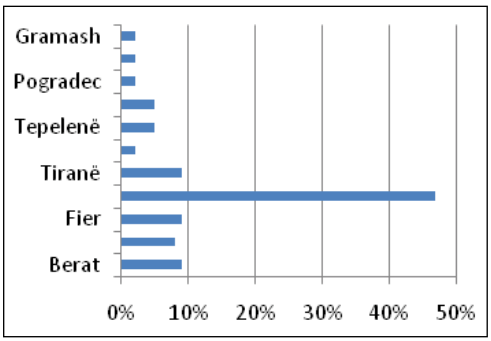
Age

The majority of cases belong to the under 14 age group (36.2%); 31.8% to 14-18; 16% to 19-25; 7% to 26-30 and 9% to the over 30 age group.



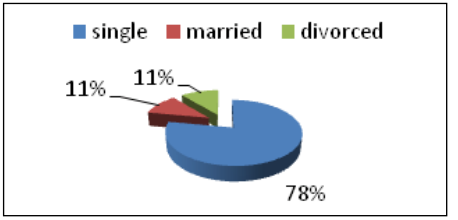
Origin

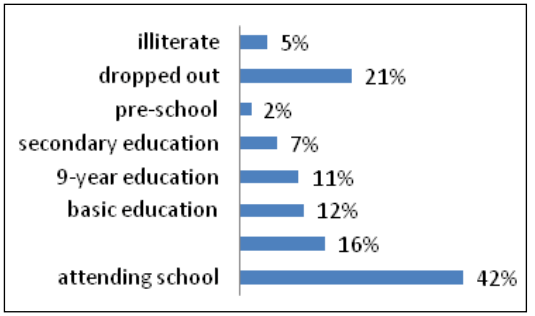
34% of cases assisted during 2017 come from rural areas and 66% from urban areas. Cases come from different districts of Albania mainly from Berat, Tirana, Vlora, Elbasan, Shkodra, etc. It should be noted that compared with the last two years, the number of VoT/PVoT cases has increased in the city of Vlora based on the identification and the work carried out from the Field Teams in Vlora and its respective administrative units.



Marital status

As described in the relevant chart, 78% of the assisted cases are single, 11% divorced, and 11% are married, some of whom have been assisted by the lawyer at the centre in order to file for a dissolution of marriage or have interrupted the relationship with their spouse since a long time.



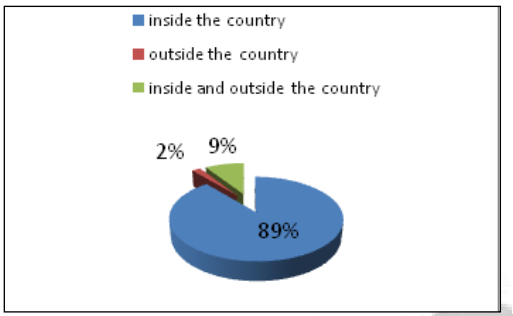


Education

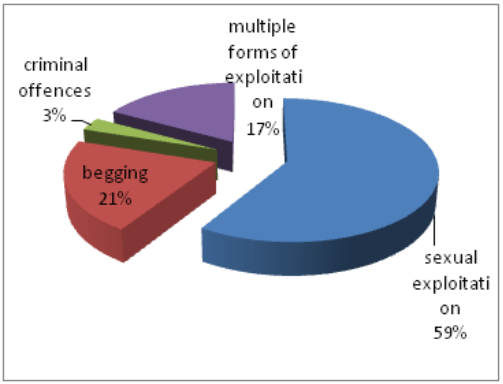
42% of cases are attending school, 12% of them have completed the basic education (8 years), 11% of them have completed the 9-year education, 7% of them have completed secondary education and 2% of them are at a pre-school age. 21% have dropped out of school, 5% of them have never attended school. After receiving the services provided by the centre, 4 cases (11%) have gone back to school.

Places and types of exploitation

Of the 44 assisted cases, **89%** (39 cases) were exploited within the country, in Albania, (mainly in cities such as: Tirana, Vlora, Elbasan, Durrës, Berat, Shkodra, etc.); **2%** of them were exploited abroad(in countries such as: Italy, Greece, Germany, Macedonia) and **9%** were exploited inside and outside the country.



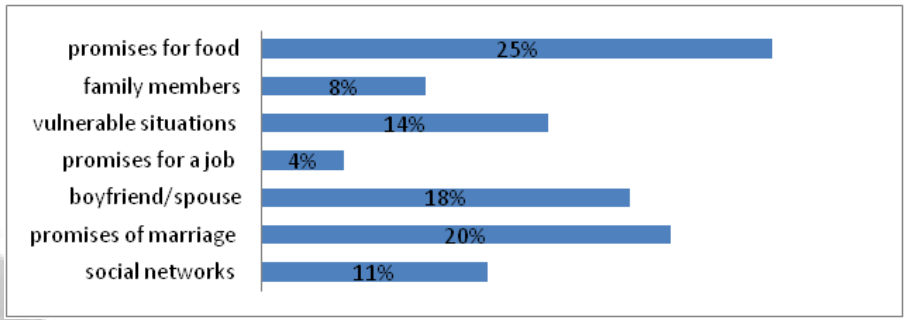
Mostly, the victims were subject to **sexual exploitation, begging, forced labour, commission of criminal offences (robbery, drug trafficking, etc.), and multiple forms of exploitation.**



Specifically, 59% of the cases were used for sexual exploitation, 21% were exploited for begging; 3% for the commission of criminal offences (robbery, drug trafficking). As you can see from the chart below, in 17% of cases, victims have suffered multiple forms of exploitation.

Recruiting channels

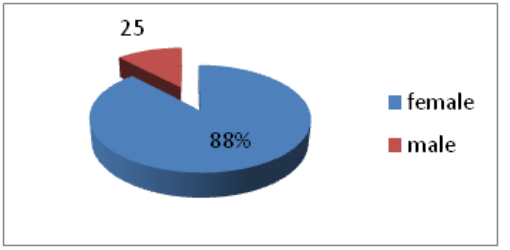
During the recent years, recruitment through **social networks**, particularly of minor girls, has significantly increased in **11% of the cases (13 - 18 years old)**. However, most girls and women have been recruited through **false promises of marriage / marriage (20%); by the boyfriend / cohabitant / spouse (18%); false promises for a job (4%), promise for food and protection (25%); abuse of a position of vulnerability (cases of mental health and physical health problems) 14%.** Almost **7% of cases** declare to have been exploited by **their own family members,** mostly used and exploited for begging.



1.2 Victims of violence profile

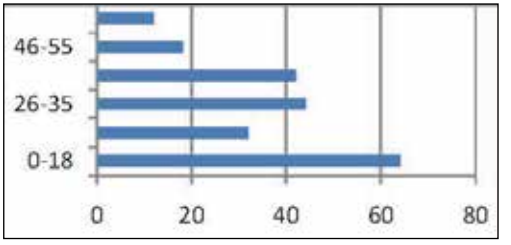
Gender

Of the 212 cases assisted for the first time during the year, 185 (87%) are girls and women and 25 (13%) are males. A high number of male beneficiaries can be noticed compared to 2016.



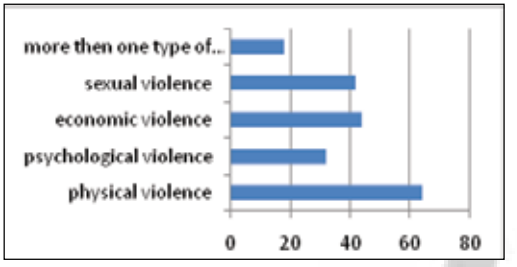
Age

During 2017, you can notice an inclusion of all age groups in the cycle of violence. The most affected age group is 4-18 years old (30%), followed by the age group of 26-35 years old (21%). Compared to the previous year, there is a change due to the increase in the number of minor beneficiaries. With regard to the category of boys and men, the highest number is represented by the 26-35 age group, given that at this age they have the highest predisposition to be abusive and are more inclined to seek help in contrast to older age groups.



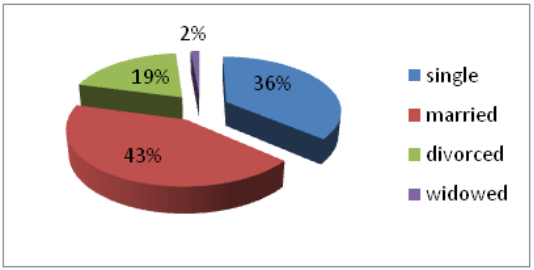
Types of violence

During the interviews, in 212 cases that reported they had suffered violence and also used violence, in 70% of them there was more than one type of violence used and 30% had suffered a certain type of violence. In most cases, physical and economic violence have also been associated with types of psychological violence such as: threats, isolation, coercive control, moral and social devaluation, etc.

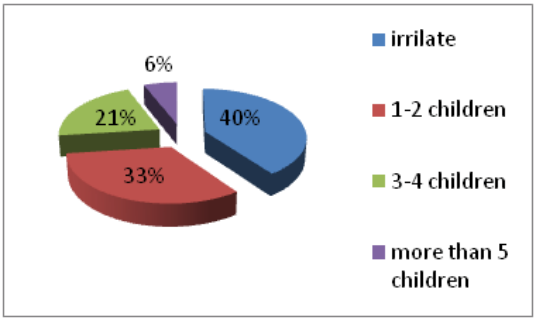


Marital status

Most of beneficiaries seeking services were married, namely 91 beneficiaries (43%). Next, divorced beneficiaries, 36%, and the lowest number of beneficiaries are those who lost their wives, only 2% of them. Compared to the previous year, there has been a rise in cases of celibate victims of violence, since the level of awareness has increased and they are more open to report the violence they have suffered.



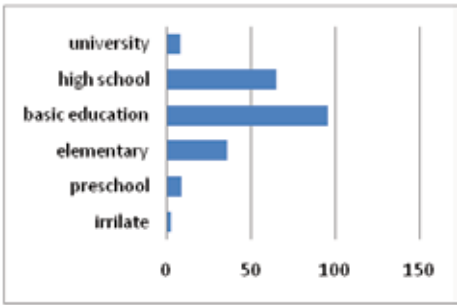
The victims' children



The children of the beneficiaries have been supported by psychological services since most of them report having experienced psychological and physical violence by their mother's abuser. They have also witnessed violence. Emotional violence has been present in almost all children, who have witnessed domestic violence.

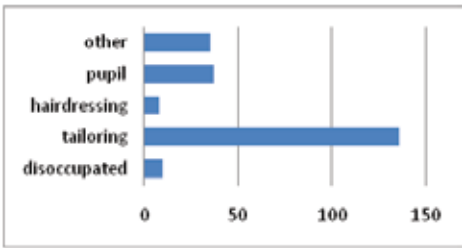
Education

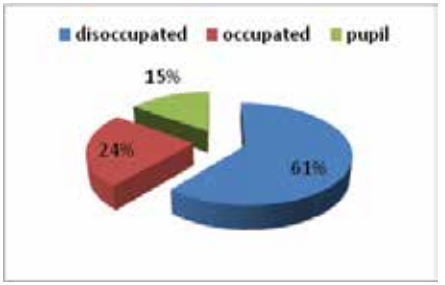
As it can be seen from the tabular data, the educational attainment of victims of domestic violence is low. The highest percentage of the educational attainment is represented by basic education (8-9 years), namely 44% of the cases. The lowest percentage is represented by higher education, with 3% (8 cases). Regarding male gender, as in the previous year, 80% of them have completed basic education. It is obvious that the victims of violence as well as perpetrators belong to a low level of education.



Occupation

The majority of the beneficiaries do not have an occupation (61%). The rest of the beneficiaries who have an occupation (26%) have been trained for professions such as tailoring and hairdressing. Other occupations are nursing, teaching, etc. As regards to the male gender, most of them do not have an occupation either.



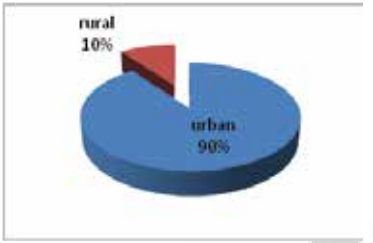


Employment

The lack of employment constitutes one of the main factors of vulnerability to violence, which causes an economic and social dependency on revenue-generating partners. Over 60% of beneficiaries report that they were not allowed to work by their partner. The rest of beneficiaries are unemployed due to lack of occupation and possibility to take care of their children during working hours, as they have no support by any of their relatives.

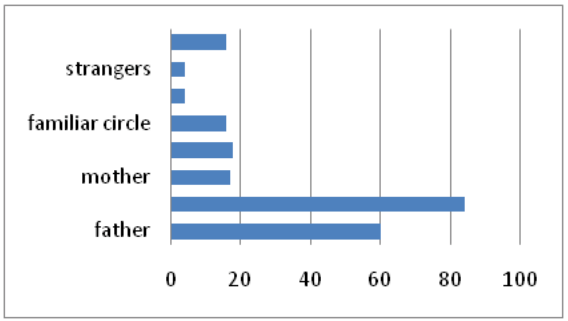
Origin

The majority of the assisted beneficiaries come from urban areas such as Vlora (92% of cases), Fieri, Berat, Lushnja, etc. 191 of them (90%) and only 10% (21 cases) come from rural areas such as Selenica, Novosela, Rradhima etc. These figures do not implicate that violence is more present to beneficiaries in urban areas, but are proof that they face many difficulties in call for help. Informative sessions regarding phenomena like domestic violence, gender-based violence and trafficking are still taking place in rural areas.



Perpetrators

There has been an increase in the number of victims of violence that have been violated by their father, specifically 60 of them. About 41% of the victims of violence have been violated by their partners, such as the husband, the ex husband, the cohabitant, the intimate partner. Among the perpetrators, the husbands represent the highest percentage, about 75%. Among the interviewed beneficiaries, 13 report violated by the mother, 15 by people within the family circle which include father-in-law/mother-in-law, brother-in-law/sister-in-law, uncle or granddaughter (1 case). 12 of the beneficiaries reported that they were violated by members of the social circle, such as family relatives, friend, friends of a family member. Only 4 of the cases said they were psychologically abused by institutions and 4 others from strangers. 16 out of the 212 beneficiaries were perpetrators. It is worth pointing out that while exploring the history of the perpetrators, we see that they themselves are former victims of violence which modelled their violent behaviour.

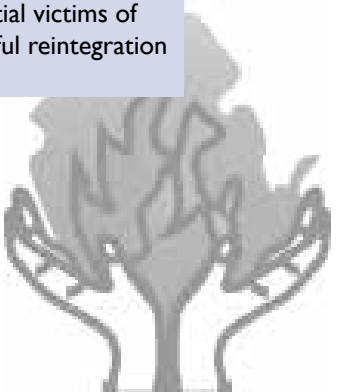


II. DIRECT ASSISTANCE

2.1 FOR THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

SERVICES
• Accommodation/housing • 24 hours safety • Needs assessment • Health care assistance • Psycho-social assistance and support • Legal assistance and counselling • Support for education and school • Mediation and support for vocational education • Counselling/mediation for employment • On the job training • Strengthening relationships with the family • Leisure activities • Support for semi-independent living in rented apartments • Support for starting a micro business • Monitoring and follow-up

DONORS
• CIES - "GEMAL -Gender mainstreaming in Albania - with women against violence and exploitation" • AWEN - "Providing assistance for the sustainable reintegration of former/ potential victims of trafficking in Albania" • MMRS - "Providing direct assistance for the social and economic empowerment of the victims/potential victims of trafficking and victims of violence in Vlora District" • UNVTF - "Providing assistance for the sustainable reintegration of former victims of trafficking" • Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, Pristina, Kosovo - "Strengthening the social and economic position of victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking for a successful reintegration into social life"



2.1 Identification and referral

The identification of victims/potential victims of trafficking is based on SOP. So during 2017, 44 victims/potential victims of trafficking were referred to "Vatra" for the first time, where they were identified and RA was notified. Police remains the main referring institution for services (41% of cases); the field team (36% of the cases) and 23% of the cases were referred by the QKPVT and the local and national service providers.

Referral sources	***Number***
VloraPolice	*6*
Selenica Police	*1*
Berati Police	*4*
Korça Police	*1*
Fieri Police	*4*
Berati Police/CPU Kuçova	*2*
CPU Vlora	*2*
Community	*1*
QKPVT	*3*
CLCI	*1*
IOM	*1*
The field team, "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre	*19*
TOTAL	***44***

2.2 The assisted return of the victims/potential victims of trafficking

During 2017, "Vatra" Centre, in cooperation with the Responsible Authority, has followed the process of assisted return for a woman who was a victim of trafficking and her 6 year old child.

The case is an Albanian victim of trafficking referred to "Vatra" Centreby IOM and the Responsible Authority. Upon arrival in the country, following the notification of the RA, the responsible units at the border (Rinas) conducted the procedures for the referral of the case to "Vatra" shelter, where she was also identified as a potential victim of trafficking. The woman and her child continue to be accommodated in the shelter during the first phase of the program.

2.3 Accommodation/Housing

During 2017, **30 victims and 9 children of theirs were accommodated in the shelter. Likewise, 7 victims and 7 children were provided with housing in rented apartments. Thanks to the advocacy of "Vatra" Centre with Vlora Municipality, 3 of these beneficiaries and their children were included in the social housing scheme during 2017.**

In the shelter

The beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter have received basic services such as food, clothing, hygiene, health care, psychological, legal, educational, socio-educational services, entertainment, family mediation, vocational training mediation, employment mediation services and support to get identification documents. All these services were provided in cooperation with public and non-public institutions, as well as at a high level of security: 24-hour security offered by the private police service, accompaniment by a social worker and other professional staff.

In semi-independent apartments (rented apartments supported by the program)

Rented apartments, paid by the "Vatra" program, are provided to VoT/PVoT cases for 6-12 months (depending on their needs). 7 beneficiaries and their 7 children have benefited from this service during the second phase of the program. It should be noted that the cases have originally received shelter services during the first phase of the program and then, following the assessment of the multidisciplinary group, have been transferred to the semi-independent living phase. The **two beneficiaries** and their four children, who were provided with rented apartments by the "Vatra" program, were included in the social housing scheme in the Municipality of Vlora during 2017.

2.4 Needs assessment/assistance plan

After receiving them in the shelter, professionals have assessed the needs of beneficiaries within the first 2 weeks of accommodation in the shelter, such as: the need for long-term housing, psycho-social support, medical and legal assistance, family mediation, vocational training, mediation for employment and education. Based on the identification of these needs, interventions were made according to specific issues and a defined aid plan with specific objectives and the voluntary

involvement of the beneficiaries was developed. This service was provided for all the cases accommodated in the shelter.

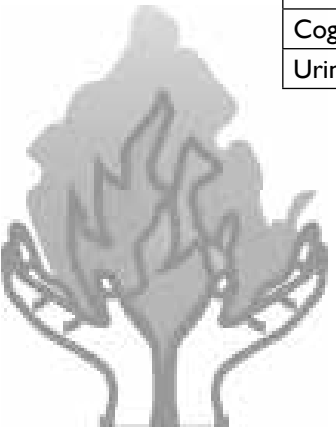
2.5 Medical assistance

During 2017, 63 beneficiaries were supported with health assistance at all stages of the program. **956 check-ups were performed by the centre's doctor**, out of which **512 cases resulted in general pathology; 10 children of beneficiaries** were supported with healthcare assistance (check-ups, medication and vaccination); 25 victims/potential victims of trafficking were provided with health cards.

Medical assistance
- Check-ups
- Medical tests
- Ultrasound examinations
- Tests
- Provision of health cards
- Provision of medications
- Health monitoring
- Information sessions
- Child care
- Preparations and control of the food menu

Most frequent physical and mental health diagnosis:

Diagnosis	Frequency (cases)
Neurosis	74
Menstrual pain	53
Virosis	37
Laryngitis	30
Follicular angina	27
Diffused bronchitis	20
Gastralgia	19
Rhinitis	19
Dermatitis	12
Combustions	11
Cognitive	10
Urinal infections	10



Photos from the nursing facility inside the shelter

There were conducted 12 **informative topics** as well as group counselling on personal hygiene, care during pregnancy, care for sexually transmitted diseases, child care, etc.

Medical tests/ examinations

Medical tests	Examined	Diagnosed	Institution
STI/HIV/AIDS	21	Negative	Public Health Directorate
Blood tests	24	Negative	Regional hospital/Primary Healthcare Centre
Ultrasound examinations	10	Negative	"Aulona" Centre/Regional Hospital

2.6 Psycho-social assistance

The group of social workers and the psychologist of the centre have also organized throughout the year group based discussions onsocial and psychological topics. In total, 130 topics and 126 group based discussions have been organised on topics such as, attachment, stress and anxiety or relaxing techniques, conflict management, sleeping disorders, eating disorders, etc.

Assistance from a psychologist

Individual psychological counselling was provided for **53 beneficiaries and 17 of their children,** during the three phases of the program. **864 individual psychological counselling sessions, group, art and games therapy** were conducted, from which problems such as emotional fluctuations, anxiety, psychotic episodes, behavioural disorders, failure to observe social norms, post-traumatic disorders, sleep and stress management issues, personality disorders and adaptation issues have been treated.

Assistance from a social worker
Social workers have provided counselling to beneficiaries as per the objectives set in individual reintegration plans, mainly on: the importance of establishing relationships with families, the emotional state, the professional and employment situation, childcare, management of daily life and income, etc. We have continued to monitor the cases even after they leave the shelter in order to identify the needs of the beneficiaries and address and solve them. In this context, 4507 meetings and consultations, **553 individual counselling with beneficiaries at the shelter and 21 meetings with the victims, were organised in the second stage of the program.**

2.7 Mediating and strengthening relationships with families

Although mediation for strengthening family relations remains a challenge in the work of "Vatra", in the context of integrating the beneficiaries into a new community the staff works on the family situation and risk assessment.

Work has been done on establishing and strengthening family relationships for 34 cases while15 cases and their 3 children have returned to their families; 2 cases were referred to other shelters. 56 meetings and regular phone calls have been organised with family members.

For the purpose of socio-economic empowerment of the beneficiaries' family members, 3 parents of minor victims were supported with professional training, 10 families were supported with financial assistance and mediation for the employment of parents (mostly the families of children identified by the field team).

2.8 Legal assistance and counselling

- individual legal counselling for victims of trafficking, as well as information on each case;
- supporting and accompanying the beneficiaries to the law enforcement institutions, such as the Police, the Prosecution Office, the Court, during the criminal/civil proceedings filed against traffickers;
- advising and informing them on the progress of the criminal/civil proceedings;
- providing identification documents and registering the beneficiaries' children in the Civil Status Registry;
- providing the necessary documentation to start a judicial, criminal or civil, proceeding.

This service has provided legal counselling for **63** cases and direct legal assistance in judicial institutions and other institutions for **8** cases. Cases have been: criminal proceedings against traffickers, criminal proceedings against perpetrators, Immediate Protection Order, Protection Order, Custody. 8 cases have been addressed to the Prosecution of Serious Crimes, Court of Serious Crimes, Vlora Judicial District Court and Prosecution Office, where they denounced their traffickers/exploiters or filed for "Dissolution of marriage".

In 2017, a case addressed by the Serious Crimes Prosecution Office and Court during 2016-2017, was able to be included in the Witness Protection Program.

In the course of providing legal services, 24 group information sessions were organised with the beneficiaries regarding the Albanian Legislation on Trafficking and Domestic Violence.

2.9 Education assistance

Support for education was provided in cooperation with the Regional Education Directorates of the respective regions. Specifically, during 2017, 29 cases received support for education, of which: 6 beneficiaries were enrolled in basic education schools, 2 beneficiaries resumed their studies in the Commercial High School, and 1 beneficiary went back to university; for **3** children of the beneficiaries in the shelter and **13** children of the beneficiaries in the first, second and third stages of the program now attend, with our mediation, day-care, kindergarten and school; we have mediated for **14 cases** in the first stage, accommodated in the community, and second stage of the program (minors) to go back to school, and we are monitoring their progress. The centre's teacher has provided literacy courses for one beneficiary.

All of the aforementioned cases were provided with school supplies. In cooperation with World Vision Albania, 9 beneficiaries of the first stage, accommodated in the shelter and community, were provided with textbooks. **So, during 2017, 23 beneficiaries and 16 of their children in total received educational/school services.**

2.10 Support for the children of the victims of trafficking

During this year, services were provided for 32 children of beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter and community. The service provided was of a psychological, social, health, educational and legal nature. The teacher and staff of "Vatra" in cooperation with their mothers, have monitored their progress in educational

institutions. The centre's lawyer has undertaken legal procedures for the registration of two children and the court proceedings for obtaining their paternity.

2.11 Socio-cultural activities inside and outside the shelter.

Educational, social and cultural activities are part of the service schedule for beneficiaries and their children with the purpose of reintegrating and adapting them to community life.

2.11.1 Activities inside the shelter

Educational topics addressed by the multidisciplinary group. The group of social workers has organised 118 topics and 114 group conversations which were selected based on the problems encountered in management, the wishes of the beneficiaries, holidays and the international days, etc.

Improvement of basic life skills. Developing activities such as cooking skills, home maintenance tips, enhancing the knowledge gained in vocational training, helps the beneficiaries to be able to manage different situations and increase self-confidence. Within the shelter, there is a corner dedicated to hairdressing, beauty and tailoring where skills may be practised.

Photos of corners within the shelter where skills are practised.

Bibliotherapy. In addition to individual reading, the beneficiaries are organized with the support of a social worker in groups for the realization of bibliotherapy. The beneficiaries have realized artistic creations, poems and essays, which have been displayed in monthly artistic activities organized in the shelter.

Gardening. Since the shelter has a lot of space around, the centre's staff have assisted the beneficiaries to organise a variety of gardening activities, such as planting vegetables that are in season, maintaining fruit trees, ornamental gardening, etc. The products, though in small quantities, were consumed by the beneficiaries.

Handicrafts. During the week, some of the beneficiaries dedicate several hours of their free time to handicrafts, knitting, embroidery, bracelets, beads, needle work, weaving, etc.

Photos of handicrafts realised by beneficiaries of "Vatra" centre

Literacy courses, English language and computer courses. Twice a week, the beneficiaries attend English courses provided by thee Biblical Baptist Church of Vlora; computer courses provided by the social group and literacy courses for illiterate beneficiaries and those who have literacy deficiencies.

Entertaining activities.Video projecting cinema. Every weekend, a cinema with a video projector is organized for the beneficiaries, during the week the social worker on shift organizes different games, during evenings parties with music and dancing are organised.

Painting and creativity classes.All the beneficiaries who are good at painting, poetry, creativity with different materials, are supported by members of the staff through painting and creativity classes.

All the necessary materials for their creations are purchased with the program funds and used for this activity which is very helpful for the emotional rehabilitation of the beneficiaries.

Physical activities / fitness. With the support of the OSCE Presence in Albania, within the shelter, a space with the necessary fitness equipment has been set up where the beneficiaries exercise daily according to their daily activities program.

Photos from fitness activities

2.11.2 Activities outside the shelter

Such activities are planned for the social and emotional development of the beneficiaries of the program. 12 trips (Berat, Apolloni, Gjirokastra, Llogora, Zvërnec), picnics outside the city and 32 weekly trips to the city to buy the groceries needed for the weekly menu have been organised. Every Sunday, some of the beneficiaries go to the Baptist Church.

Photos of the activities of the beneficiaries outside the shelter

2.12 Long-term monitoring (the third stage of the program)

During 2017, for the third phase of the program we have monitored and supported 25 beneficiaries and 21 of their children. The monitoring was carried out thanks to the cooperation "Vatra" has established with other organizations in Albania, the State Social Service and its regional offices.

The monitoring of cases shows that the 25 cases involved in long-term monitoring live with their families of origin, or have created new families (marriage, cohabitation, or independent living):

- 13 cases have created new families (married/cohabitation with children)
- 5 cases live alone, in independent living
- 7 cases live in the family of origin

The measured indicators of success show that 59% of cases have progressed in the reintegration process; 34% of them have economic difficulties and are supported by the staff in finding a job for themselves and their family members, and 7% of them have regressed (it is thought they may have been recycled in trafficking).

Some of the identified problems faced by beneficiaries are: *lack of stable employment/ economic difficulties*; *difficulties in child care*; *unstable relationships with families of origin; unstable housing.*

As a result of the progress in the reintegration process, 4 of the cases have been included in the third phase, they have successfully passed this phase, being considered fully reintegrated into the social life of the country.

2. 2 DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

2.2.1 Referral

Referring institutions	**Number of cases**
Community/self-referral	*142*
Local Police Directorate of Vlora	*46*
Vlora District Court	*13*
Child Protection Unit	*5*
School	*4*
Klan Television	*1*
Italian Consulate	*1*
TOT	***212***

Regarding services for victims of violence and abuse, this year "Vatra" has received financial support from CIES "GEMAL -Gender mainstreaming in Albania - with women against violence and exploitation".

2.2.2. Shelter

Since the specific aim of the shelter is the treatment of victims/potential victims of trafficking and their children, for cases that require housing, "Vatra" has assisted victims of domestic violence at the shelter for a short time and then has cooperated with the National Centre for Domestic Violence to provide them with longer term housing. Other housing alternatives have also been rented apartments or other alternative locations where the support with services has continued. **In total, 7 victims of domestic violence and their children were supported with accommodation.**

2.2.3. Legal service

The centre's lawyer has provided service to 160 victims of domestic violence. 144 of the cases are new and 16 of them were carried forward from 2016 and have requested legal service on various issues again. **During 2017, 28 protection orders were obtained, including 22 immediate protection orders and 6 protection orders.** Also, 23 cases that have filed criminal charges against the perpetrator and abusers have been assisted. The cases have been assisted in different institutions such as: the Vlora Judicial District Court, Vlora Court of Appeal, Vlora District Prosecution Office, Regional Police Directorate in Vlora, Civil Registry Office in Vlora, Directorate of Economic Aid and Social Services, Vlora Municipality, Regional Directorate of State Social Service and the Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Vlora.

2.2.4. Psychological service

- For women and girls/victims of domestic violence

In total, "Vatra"'s psychologist has assisted with individual consultations **120 women and girls victims of violence and abuse**. Almost all the victims of violence have manifested various physiological and psychological problems. The counselling sessions have been focused on reducing the psychological discomforts of the beneficiaries and reaching the psycho-emotional balance. Keeping in mind the above issues, we have worked with their self-esteem by highlighting their strengths, empowerment of the victims so that they do not accept co-living with violence, guiding them towards the achievement of personal objectives and elimination of self-blame feelings.

- For children, victims of domestic violence

In total **61 children victims of violence and abuse** were assisted. The problems that they have manifested were of emotional, psychological and behavioural nature. The psychological intervention aimed at reducing the intensity and frequency of emotional and behavioural symptoms, providing the opportunity to the children to talk openly on the their experiences and fears, modifying the misconceptions that they may have created on abuse and violence, and teaching healthy strategies on managing emotions and improvement of the social interactions of the child. The centre's psychologist has provided psychological services to the court for cases of domestic violence involved in the marriage dissolution process or the attainment of protection orders.

2.3 ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE

2.3.1 Counselling cycle aims to increase the level of skills and potential of beneficiaries, in order to achieve a more sustainable employment and a better life quality, through their individuality and desires. 33 women and girls have participated in the counselling cycle.

2.3.2 Vocational education The staff of Vatra has followed up the registration, the attendance of courses and the professional growth of 20 beneficiaries PVoT/VoT and victims of violence, in collaboration with the Directorate of Vocational Education in Vlora as well as with other religious or private institutions. Respectively: 5 cases have attended the tailoring course, 3 cases have attended the cooking course, 7 cases the hairdressing course and 5 cases the beauty and skin care course. The program with the support of CIES has provided the basic professional tools to the cases which have finished the tailoring course. During their accommodation in the shelter, the cases have practised in the respective corners of cooking and tailoring.

2.3.3 On the job training (Internship) During 2017 Vatra Centre has followed up and supported through on the job training 11 beneficiaries VoT/PVoT and victims of

violence (cooking, beauty, sales agent, confectionery, bartender and bakery). One of the beneficiaries that attended the training in the workplace course was employed by the private entity.

2.3.4 Mediation for employment In collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Employment and Private Entities, the staff of Vatra mediated the employment of 33 beneficiaries and made possible the employment and monitoring of 13 beneficiaries in tailoring factories, restaurants, call centre, confectionery, hair salons, beauty centres, etc. The sustainable employment of victims of trafficking continues to be one of the main challenges in their reintegration process.

2.3.5 Support for starting micro businesses and income generating activities

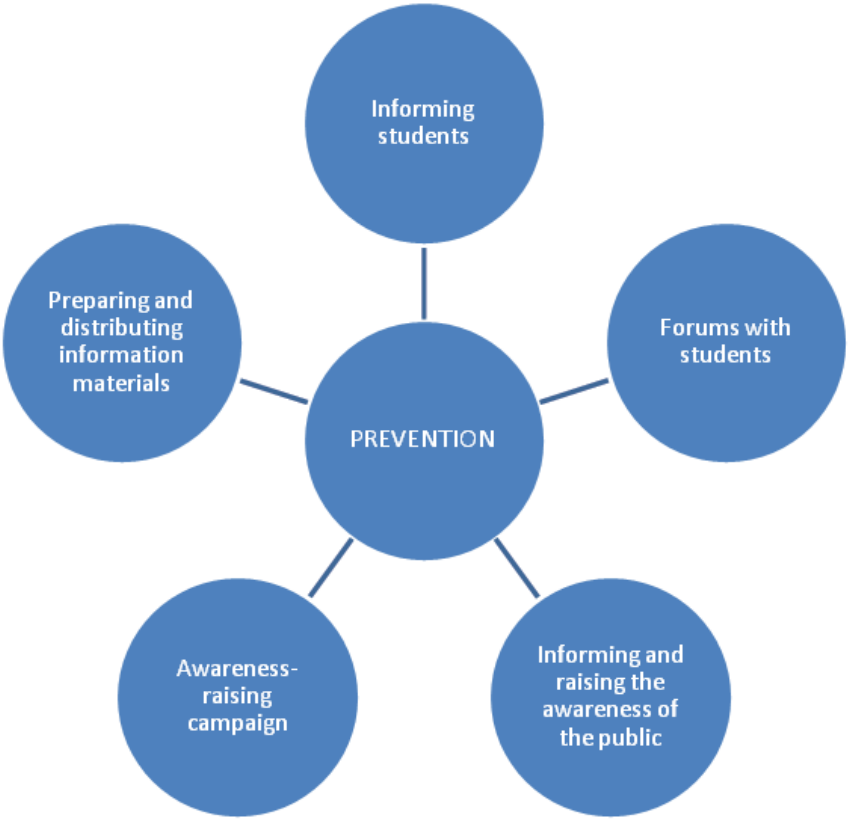
During 2017, Vatra has monitored and supported 19 beneficiaries who were supported to start their micro businesses before 2017**,** and who are generating income from their micro-businesses in hairdressing/beauty and skin care, tailoring or other economic activities such as: selling of dairy products, where they were supported to buy the cattle; selling of horticulture, where they were supported with seedlings, fruits, citrus and olives.

Even throughout 2017, Vatra, using the funds of CIES supported for the strengthening and the establishment of their micro businesses **aiming the social-economic empowerment of women and girls that are victims of violence and trafficking 5 beneficiaries (4 of them to upgrade the existing micro businesses and 1 beneficiary to start a new micro business).** Specifically, Vatra has supported three micro businesses in hairdressing/beauty, one micro business in beauty and skin care and one micro business in roasting/grinding coffee.

An active license or obtaining a new license was a criteria for all businesses, including the existing ones and the new micro business, in order to operate according to the rules.

Photos of the micro businesses of the beneficiaries

III. PREVENTION/EDUCATION & INFORMATION



The implementation of awareness-raising activities was supported under the projects:

1. **"Raising the youth awareness and building the capacities of local structures for the identification, referral and protection of victims/ potential victims of trafficking"**, financed by the US Embassy in Tirana. This project was implemented in Vlora, Berat, Fier and Gjirokastra.

2. "**The identification and the cross-cutting protection of children, victims/potential victims of trafficking and the children of victims"**, an activity supported in the framework of the project "Involvement of the civil society in child protection" implemented by "Save the Children" and "Terre des Hommes" in Albania, financed with the funds of the European Commission.

3. In the framework of cooperation with the national and local actors against violence and trafficking, in awareness-raising campaigns: the national anti-trafficking month and the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence; the international day against trafficking, the international day of women and the international day of children.

3.1 Informing the young people in basic education and high schools

- In the framework of the project"Raising the youth awareness and building the capacities of local structures for the identification, referral and protection of victims/potential victims of trafficking", financed by the US Embassy in Tirana, **15 informing sessions were organised with the participation of 450 students** of basic education and high schools in the regions of Vlora, Fier, Berat, Gjirokastra, Saranda. These students were informed regarding the danger of human trafficking, the identification, the protection and the services required for the survived victims.

	School	City	No. of students
1.	"Kutbi Vruzhaj"	Levan, Fier	30
2.	"Pilo Prifti"	Novoselë, Vlora	21
3.	"Asim Zeneli"	Gjirokastra	34
4.	"Myrteza Kepi"	Kuçova	34
5.	"Dervish Hekali"	Ballsh, Fier	38
6.	Vocational Mechanic High School	Lushnja	28
7.	"Hajredin Beqari"	Selenicë, Vlora	31
8.	"Mynyr Xhindi"	Vllahinë, Vlora	28
9.	"Uznovë"	Berat	28
10.	"Spiro Gjiknuri"	Himara	34
11.	"Jakov Xoxa"	Fier	16
12.	"Sali Nivica"	Memaliaj, Tepelena	22
13.	"Qazim Pali"	Borsh, Himara	34
14.	General High School	Poliçan	42
15.	Commercial High School	Vlora	32
Tot	**15 information sessions**	450 students	**450 students**

- In the framework of the project "The identification and the cross-cutting protection of children, victims/potential victims of trafficking and the children of victims", supported in the framework of the project "Involvement of the civil society in child protection" implemented by "Save the Children" and "Terre des Hommes" in Albania, financed by the funds of the European Commission, **4 informing sessions were organised with the participation of 116 students of basic education and high/vocational schools in Vlora.**

	School	City	No. of students
1.	"ZigurLelo"	Vlora	28
2.	"Pavarësia"	Vlora	28
3.	"Mustafa Kemal Ataturk"	Vlora	29
4.	"Pilo Prifti"	Novoselë, Vlora	31
Tot	**4 information sessions**	116 students	**116 students**

3.2 Forums with students

During 2017, in the framework of the program of Vatra, and in collaboration with the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, "Vatra" organized 2 forums with students of "Ismail Qemali" University in Vlora and "Eqerem Çabej" University in Gjirokastra. The forums were led by a high level panel composed of members such as the Prefect of Gjirokastra, representatives of the Ministry of Interior (the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator), Prosecutors from the Prosecution Office of Serious Crimes, and also representatives of local institutions, the Police and the Child Protection Unit. The topic of discussion in these forums was "The Albanian legislation against trafficking and the national policies for protecting the victims/potential victims of trafficking", with the participation of **119 students**. The participants discussed on matters regarding human trafficking; the ways of involving people in trafficking; the ways of informing competent institutions regarding cases which are suspected of recruiting potential victims.

3.3 Informing and raising the awareness of the public

- "Vatra" centre, to commemorate the international day of women, in collaboration with organizations and local institutions, organized **a public activity** with the slogan "I am a superwoman!". This activity was in continuation of the activity started in Tirana by AWEN, a network where "Vatra" is part of. The activity consisted in distributing information materials, giving flowers to women and girls

and setting up a banner to write the above mentioned slogan where women and girls from the community left their hand prints as a symbolic gesture that they join the cause.

- Together with a wide group of civil society organizations, on June 1, the staff of Vatra marched in Tirana to ask the Assembly of Albania, the Government, the Presidency and the Municipalities the following: **Do your duties towards the children! Take responsibility!**

- **On July 30, 2017**, a date that coincides with the International Day against Human Trafficking, "Vatra" in collaboration with other civil society organizations, organized a public activity in the city of Vlora by distributing information materials (leaflets, brochures, posters, etc.). The local institutions that are members of the

KRAT in Vlora and the civil society organizations whose activities are focused in protecting and providing services to the victims/potential victims of human trafficking, were also part of this activity.

3.4 Awareness-raising campaign

3.4.1 In the framework of the National Anti-Trafficking Month- October 2017

In cooperation with and with the support of the Ministry of Interior, the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, The Ministry of Education and the Regional Directorate of Vocational Education in Vlora, **3 informing sessions were organised with the participation of 80 people**(out of which 60 students of basic education/high schools in the cities of Vlora, Fier and Kuçova and 20 women and girls from the community).

	Institution	City	No. of participants
1.	Vocational Training Centre	Vlora	20
2.	"Myrteza Kepi" School	Kuçova	29
3.	"Zhani Ciko" School	Patos, Fier	31
Tot	**3 information sessions**		80 participants

3.4.2 In the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (November 25 - December 10)

In collaboration with AWEN and the Local Police Directorate of Vlora, the Unit of Domestic Violence of the Municipality of Vlora and the Youth Regional Centre **4 informing sessions were carried outwith the participation of 125 students** of basic education and high schools in Vlora. Furthermore, on November 24, the lawyer and the psychologist of the centre **had a conversation on "Real Tv"** based on the slogan "Let's put an end to violence against women and girls without leaving anyone aside" where they discussed regarding the issue of domestic violence, the legal measures and the profile of victims and perpetrators.

3.4.3 Preparation and distribution of information materials

In the framework of the projects focussed on preventing human trafficking, and during the awareness-raising campaigns, 3 leaflets and other information materials were prepared and distributed in awareness raising activities. Over 1000 young people from schools, students, employees of the local anti-trafficking mechanisms and citizens have been informed by distributing information materials and pens containing the slogan against human trafficking.

3.4.4 Information Corner in the Court

In the framework of the project of "Justice for all" Coalition, an information corner has been set up in Vlora Judicial District Court, where law experts help citizens who visit the court and need information regarding their rights of access to the justice system. This activity was organised during June 2017 - January 2018. In the end, 75 questionnaires were filled in in order to identify the issues that citizens face when addressing a court.

Photos of the information corner in the court

IV. STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES

The capacity building of employees from local state structures and NGOs, is one of the most important programs of the activity of Vatra, because the continuous qualification of the staff of institutions that are responsible for identifying, protecting and delivering services to victims of trafficking and violence, affects directly the safe and long term reintegration of these victims into the community. The capacity building is accomplished through the projects implemented by the Vatra centre during 2017, through trainings and workshops with employees of the police, prosecution office, social service, vocational education and employment, health care, education and child protection structures at local level in the regions of Vlora, Fier, Berat, Gjirokastra, etc.

Below we have provided an overview of the activities carried out for the capacity building of these institutions, during 2017.

4.1 Through the support of the "GEMAL project -Gender mainstreaming in Albania - with the women against violence and exploitation", financially supported by CIES with funds from the Italian Development Cooperation, during January-December 2017, ongoing trainings were organised on Gender budgeting, as an instrument to support gender policies, for 15 employees in the municipalities of Vlora, Himara and Selenica, with a frequency of once every 2 weeks.

The full training cycle was completed in December, by selecting the Municipality of Himara to pilot the preparation of a gender budget that will be supported by the expert of the project for the preparation of a planned budget. During training the following topics were addressed: *Statistics, as an instrument for gender analysis; The selection of data that determine the measurable gender indicators; The preparation of the annual budget, the role and the responsible structures by programs; The follow up of the practical implementation of the action plan for the gender budgeting of the upcoming year;*

The barriers preventing women participation in local government; The appropriate model and the future trends etc.

4.2 In the framework of the project "The identification and cross-cutting protection of children, victims/potential victims of trafficking and the children of trafficking victims", supported by the grants scheme of the project **"Involvement of the Civil Society in the Protection of Children's rights in Albania"** financed by the European Union and implemented by Save the Children in Albania in partnership with Terre des Hommes Albania, **3 trainings with the participation of 21 employees of the child protection system**, Municipality of Vlora, members of the GTM and social administrators in the Municipality of Vlora were organized. The purpose of these trainings was to strengthen the cross-cutting system for child protection through the understanding and the implementation of the legislation in force and the responsibilities deriving from this legislation. The topics addressed during trainings were: *The legal grounds for child protection and children's rights as well as understanding the concepts of trafficking / abuse; The Child Protection Protocol, the levels of danger. Preliminary and in-depth evaluation; Case management and planning and the reintegration of the children victims/potential victims of trafficking*.

4.3 In the framework of the project "Increasing the level of information of young people and building the capacities of local structures for the identification, referral and protection of victims/potential victims of trafficking", financially supported by the Small Grants Programme of the United

States Embassy, **4 trainings were organised with the participation of 84 representatives from state institutions and NGOs** (employees from health care, SSS, Police, Employment Directorate, Vocational Training, teachers and social workers in schools, Prefectures, NGOs) in the regions of Vlora, Fier and Berat. The issues addressed in these training were *the understanding and implementation of SOP in compliance with the roles that each one of them has regarding the identification, referral and protection of victims/potential victims of trafficking.*

4.4 Workshop with social workers, psychologists and teachers of basic education and high schools

In February and April, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, 3 workshops were organized, with the topic "The role and duties of school in the identification, referral and protection of children that are victims/potential victims of trafficking" with the participation of 67 psychologists, social workers and teachers of basic education and high schools in the regions of Vlora, Berat and Fier. During the workshops, with the help of a specialist contracted by Vatra, several issues were addressed, such as understanding and implementing the SOPs for the identification, referral and protection of VoT/PVoT; the respective responsibilities of each institution for the implementation of these procedures; the role of the social worker, psychologist and teacher in identifying cases, assessing the needs and referring them to the community services.

4.5 In the framework of the project "Observance of the rights of victims of trafficking from the local institutions of law enforcement" financed by the US Embassy in Tirana, **4 trainings were organised with the participation of 80 people, specifically 19 prosecutors, 19 judiciary police officers and 42 employees of the local policedirectorates** in the regions of Vlora, Tirana, Berat, Gjirokastra**.** In continuation, 7 other trainings will be carried out in the regions of Fier, Durrës, Shkodra, Kukës, Elbasan, Korça and Peshkopia. *The legal amendments to the anti-trafficking law in 2017, to the Criminal Procedure Code, Criminal Code, Standard Operating Procedures for the identification, referral and protection of victims/potential victims of trafficking* were in the focus of the issues addressed in this training.

IV. PROGRAMME – ADVOCACY & LOBBYING

One of the pillars of Vatra Strategy 2014-2017, which shall continue to be a priority of our work, is our commitment to advocacy and lobbying activities for the protection of the rights of the victims of violence and human trafficking.

Throughout 2017, Vatra experts were involved in local and national initiatives in order to improve social legislation and policies at all levels.

Specifically:

- ***Advocacy to improve social policies in the Municipality of Vlora*** . Following the activities undertaken during 2016, also in cooperation with other local organisations in Vlora, particularly the Women Center "Aulona", work for the advocacy with the Municipality of Vlora and the Municipal Council of Vlora for the improvement of social policies for this category has continued. Several meetings were organised with the Mayor and representatives of the Alliance of Women within the Municipal Council where discussions were conducted pertaining to support the victims of violence and trafficking with a social bonus for housing and financial assistance for the payment of kindergarten and day care fees for their children from the social fund of the Municipality. During 2017, 3 of the beneficiaries, treated under Vatra programme, benefited financial assistance for housing from the Municipality. Moreover, by the end of 2017, 15 cases, victims of domestic violence and trafficking, have been proposed for assistance, . The Municipality has taken into considerations the concerns presented by Vatra and "Aulona" Center, and we shall continue to monitor the gender budgeting process for 2018.

- ***Contribution in drafting the Municipality Social Plan, Vlora.*** During 2017, the staff of the psycho-social centre "Vatra", has contributed in drafting the Social and Child Protection Plan of the Municipality of Vlora for 2018, by actively participating in the meetings organised in the framework of this Plan by the Social Services Directorate of the Municipality and the Regional State Social

Service, Vlora, and in providing opinions, suggestions, specific recommendations and statistics related to the needs of the target groups supported by Vatra. In the framework of advocating for the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, victims of violence and their children, Vatra staff has repeatedly demanded that these target groups be included in this plan with housing services, employment mediation, and support for their children to attend kindergarten or day care without costs.

- ***Contributing in the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking 2018-2020*** . In the late 2017, the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator's Office invited all National Referral Mechanism members for the identification and referral of victims/potential victims of trafficking (NRM) to provide their inputs, remarks and recommendations on the draft of the national action plan 2018-2020. Vatra, as a NMR member, through its experts, participated in all meetings of the working group for the drafting of this plan and has simultaneously shared periodically, even after 2017, its suggestions and specific interventions for its improvement.

- ***Contribution to the Public Legal Education Strategy 2018-2022.*** In 2017, the Assembly of Albania initiated the drafting of the first National Public Legal Education Strategy 2018-2022. The first draft of this strategy was prepared by the Ad Hoc Parliamentary Committee for the Justice Reform and the Group of Experts. The Assembly has asked assistance from the civil society to improve this document, which shall be followed by the Action Plan. Experts from 6 organisations of the Justice for All Coalition, among them from the Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra", started working in November-December 2017, to review the first draft strategy. The work of experts will continue during the first six months of 2018 until the finalisation of the Public Legal Education Action Plan 2018-2022.

- ***Public reaction.*** Vatra, as a member of networks and coalitions, has joined all public reaction when a violation of human rights, particularly children, women and girls, as the main groups supported by Vatra, has been noticed. Among some public reactions, we can mention: public reaction from the Justice for All Coalition related to the justice reform implementation; development of free and fair elections, sent to political parties and constitutional institutions; strengthening punitive measures towards perpetrators in the Criminal Code, lead by the Assembly of Albania, etc.

- ***Contribution in improving several laws*** in the framework of the reform, particularly: the Law on "Criminal Code", "Criminal Procedure Code", the Law on Legal Aid, Social Services, Social Housing, Juvenile Justice Code, the Law on the Right to Information, On the protection of witnesses and collaborators with justice, On the protection of Children rights, etc. Experts of Vatra, in addition to providing legal opinions and recommendations, have also participated in meetings of Parliamentary Committees where they have introduced all their input by providing the respective arguments.

COLLABORATION

In realising the undertaken activities and services it provides in the framework of the implemented projects, Vatra has a wide network of local, national and international collaborators. Below we shall present some of our main collaborators, by presenting also the scope of collaboration for each actor.

Collaborators	Scope of collaboration
Ministry of Interior / Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator	Strengthening the referral system and treatment of cases of trafficked victims, exchanging information, organising common anti-trafficking activities, case by case reporting to the Responsible Authority, etc..
Regional Police Directorates	Referring cases for assistance, providing security when accompanying victims to legal institutions where they have denounced traffickers, reporting, etc.
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (now Ministry of Health and Social Protection, MHSP)	Joint activities, funding the food for beneficiaries in the shelter, funding salaries of expert staff of rehabilitation program, referring cases for assistance, inspecting services, support in providing solution to issues of cases with special health needs, referring cases.
State Social Service at a central and regional level, in different regions of the country, Labour Inspectorate, Tirana.	Joint activities, inspecting services in the shelter, referring cases for assistance, reporting, etc.
Regional Employment Directorates	Referring cases for assistance to Vatra, referring cases for employment mediation and inclusion in employment promotion programmes, joint awareness raising activities, etc.
Public Health Directorate, Vlora Regional Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital	Health care assistance, mutual case referral for assistance.
Ministry of Education, Regional Education Directorates in Vlora, Fier, Berat, Gjirokastra, School Directorates in these regions.	Joint activities, facilitation from the Ministry of Education and REDs to organise awareness raising activities at schools, referring cases for assistance, etc.

Municipalities and Administrative Units throughout the country	Referring cases for assistance, awareness raising activities according to the projects that Vatra implements
National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters NCAT, BKTF, AWEN, KDGJ, etc.	Mutual case referral for assistance between member institutions, lobbying and advocacy for protecting the rights of the victims of crime, joint activities, etc.
Regional Anti-Trafficking Committee / Technical Anti-Trafficking Round Table in Vlora:	Referring and addressing the victims needs to this institution and coordinating actions taken by the institution to realise these needs, joint awareness raising activities, etc..
Prosecution Office and Judicial District Court in Vlora	Referring cases for assistance, joint activities.
Municipality of Vlora,	Funding for the operational costs of Vatra counselling centre, referring cases, joint activities, etc.
Vlora Regional Council	Mediation for funding from MHSP for the salaries of the rehabilitation programme experts, referring cases, joint activities, etc.
Child Protection Units	Referring cases for assistance, field work to identify cases of children in street situation
IOM	Referring cases for assistance, support for cases of repatriated victims of trafficking.
CARITAS Albania	Direct support for victims of trafficking in the second phase of the programme by CARITAS Albania, referring cases for assistance to Vatra.
"AULONA" Centre	
The organisation "Gruaja tek Gruaja" Shkodër	Mutual referral of cases for assistance, monitoring cases in the community in the region of Shkodra.
Women Forum Elbasan	Mutual referral of cases for assistance, monitoring cases in the community in the region of Elbasan.
Centre for Civil Legal Initiatives, Tirana.	Mutual referral of cases for assistance
"Jona" Centre, Saranda	Mutual referral of cases for assistance, monitoring cases in the community in the region of Saranda
Counselling centre for women and girls, Durrës	Mutual referral of cases for assistance, monitoring cases in the community in the region of Durrës
World Vision, Vlora branch	Referring cases, joint activities, etc.
Youth Centre, Vlora	Joint awareness raising activities

The Network of Women Organisations in Western Balkans, supported by Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation	Advocacy and lobbying with the European Commission, Brussels, for women rights, joint activities.
"End Slavery Now" movement	Reaction on the rights of victims of trafficking in persons, exchange of information
"Netzkraft " Movement	Reaction on the rights of victims of trafficking in persons, exchange of information

AWARDS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In October 2017, the Ministry of Interior, the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, by evaluating the work of the National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters, during the National Conference "Together against trafficking in persons", awarded the coalition with the "Prize of Gratitude". In his speech, Minister Xhafa and deputy Ministry of Interior, Ms Rovena Voda, expressed their gratitude for 4 shelters of the National Coalition. The Psycho-social centre "Vatra", Vlora, the Centre "Other Vision", Elbasan, the National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking, Tirana, the centre "Different and equal", Tirana. Moreover, representatives of international institutions participating in the Conference thanked all members of the Coalition for their contribution given over these 20 years in anti-trafficking actions in the country.

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Throughout this year, the staff of "Vatra" has participated in national and international activities focused on anti-trafficking, gender-based violence and child protection. Among them we can mention:

- **24 January 2017**, **Vlora** - Discussion Forum with Professionals of the Justice Area for contributing in the Justice Reform, organized by the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC).
- **26 January 2017, Tirana -** Ceremony of the Introduction of the Coalition "Justice for All" and its Strategy in the next 3 years, the contribution of Vatra as a member of this Coalition and as a member of the its Commission of Policies for amendments to the Criminal Code.
- **7 February 2017, Tirana**- participation and contribution in the Round Table of the Public Discussion for the draft law "On some addenda and amendments to Law No. 7905, dated 21/03/1995 "The Criminal Code Procedure of the Republic of Albania", as amended, organized by the Commission of the Justice Reform.
- **14-15 February 2017, Belgrade, Serbia -** Regional Meeting to share the results and plan the Advocacy Strategy with the European Commission, organised by Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation.
- **27 February-3 March 2017, United Kingdom**, participating in the Bilateral International Workshop (study visit) with the topic "Fight against Human Trafficking and Organized Crime", organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.
- **19 April 2017**, **Vlora**- participating in the Training of Multidisciplinary Technical Groups with the topic "Protection of Children that are Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation: organized by the State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights.
- **24-28 April 2017**, **Brussels, Belgium**. - participating in the Advocacy Week with the European Commission from Western Balkans organisations, organised by Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation.
- **28 April 2017, Tirana -** participating in the Workshop with the topic "The index of Child Protection - A new instrument for the Advocacy for Children's Rights and Protection", organized by the Coalition "All Together Against Child

Trafficking" along with the State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights.

- **13 July 2017, Tirana** – participating in the meeting on the findings from the monitoring of the hearing sessions for the members of the vetting bodies with the People's Advocate, organized by "Justice for All".
- **13-14 July 2017, Tirana** – participating in training workshops on lobbying and advocacy organized by Save the Children.
- **14 July 2017, Tirana** – participating in the meeting of the USAID Director in Albania, Ms. Catherine Johnson with the members of the "Justice for All" Coalition, organized by the later.
- **12 September 2017, Tirana** – participating in the Meeting to discuss the calendar of activities during October, within the framework of the European Anti-Trafficking Day organized by the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.
- **14 September 2017, Tirana** – participating in the Reception Meeting of the Head of the Political and Economic Section at the United States Embassy.
- **25 September– 5 October 2017**, **United States of America** – nominated for attendance in the Global Freedom Exchange Program, organised by Vital Voices Global Partnership, Washington DC. The program included visits to share experience in Dallas, Washington, Chicago.
- **18 October 2017, Tirana** – Participating and holding presentations in the National Conference "Together we can! Stop Trafficking", organised by the Office of the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters and IOM.
- **4 November 2017, Tirana** – participating in the Round Table "Presentation of the amendments to the Law on Measures Against Violence in Family Relations", organized by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- **6 November 2017, Tirana** – participating in the meeting organized by the Delegation of the European Union in Albania for contributions to the preparation of the Albania's EU Progress Report.
- **24 – 26 October 2017, Tirana**– participating in the training "Result-based management", organized by AWEN.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

PROJECTS, DONORS, ANNUAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES

Report Currency EUR

No	Project / Description	Donors	Period	Budget	Remained from 2016	Incomes during 2017	Total Incomes 2017	Expences 2017	Difference from exhange rate EUR	Situation 31 December 2017
1	Empowering the social and economic position of victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking for a successful reintegration in the social life.	Norwegian Embassy, Pristine/Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1 December 2014- 28 February2018	150,000.00	31,168.73	24,711.48	55,880.21	47,955.68	0.97	7,925.50
2	GEMAL -Gender Mainstreaming in Albania- with women against violence and exploitation.	Centro Informazione ed Educazione allo Sviluppo Onlus C.I.E.S ONLUS., Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	20 January 2017- 19 January 2018	57,315.00	5,686.21	57,315.23	63,001.44	51,921.82	2.22	11,081.84
3	Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former Albanian victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking.	Albanian Women Empowerment Network/ AWEN funded by SIDA	1 January- 31 December 2017	30,000.00	94.34	30,000.00	30,094.34	29,995.07	0.86	100.13
4	Economic and social empowerment of women, victims of domestic violence in the District of Vlora	Open Society Foundation for Albania SOROS	1 July 2016- 28 February 2017	16,800.00	5,600.79	0.00	5,600.79	5,594.56	-4.23	2.00
5	Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former Albanian victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking	Un Voluntary TRUST Fund , Geneva	1 January - 31 December 2017	12,600.00	372.11	12,600.00	12,972.11	12,972.11	0.00	0.00
6	Increasing the information level of the young people and capacity building of the local structures for the identification, referral and protection of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking	U.S Embassy, Tirana (Small Grants Program)	1 July 2016- 30 June 2017	15,120.00	3,816.00	7,550.76	11,366.76	11,366.76	2.48	2.48
7	Respecting and protection of human trafficking victims by the local law enforcement agencies.	US Embassy, Tirana (The Democracy Commission)	September 2017 - April 2018	5,040.00	0.00	5,030.76	5,030.76	1,012.96	0.00	4,017.80
8	Monitoring the access to justice of domestic violence victims.	AWEN funded by USAID	October 2017 - February 2018	705.60	0.00	700.66	700.66	705.60	4.94	0.00
9	Support for the reintegration of former victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and their children throughout Albania	Vital Voice, USA	16 December 2017 - 31 December 2018	8,400.00	0.00	7,560.00	7,560.00	11.34	0.00	7,548.66
10	Support for the basic costs for the victims of trafficking in the shelter of "Vatra"	Terre Des Hommes, Albania	1 January - 31 March 2018	2,993.43	0.00	2,993.43	2,993.43	2,544.41	0.00	449.02
11	Identification and inter-sectorial protection for children victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and children of victims of trafficking.	Save the Children, Albania	15 June 2017- 15 June 2018	14,980.00	0.00	5,834.00	5,834.00	4,614.86	-39.10	1,180.04
12	Support for food for the victims/potential victims and their children in the shelter of "Vatra".	The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth through the Council of Vlora	1 January- 31 December 2017	10,871.76	0.00	10,871.76	10,871.76	10,867.74	0.00	4.02
13	Financial support for the operational costs for the councelling offices of "Vatra", based on law 9669 "For measures against domestic violence"	Municipality of Vlora	1 January- 31 December 2017	4,061.68	5,539.31	0.00	5,539.31	3,159.08	95.00	2,475.23
14	Solidarity Contributions of "Vatra".	Saving Account for solidarity contribution	1 January - 31 December 2017	xx	14,405.49	677.38	15,082.87	1,333.40	-86.47	13,663.00
	TOTAL				**66,682.99**	**165,845.45**	**232,528.44**	**184,055.39**	**-23.33**	**48,449.72**

Donors have funded in different currencies: EUR, USD, LEK. To facilitate the reporting process it is used the Albanian Bank official exchange rate of EUR on 31st December 2017

Exchange Rate LEK- EUR *132.95*

Exchange Rate USD - EUR *0.84*

In this report are included all the funds transfered to Vatra bank accounts. The fund of 68 000 EUR that Ministry of Health and Social Protection have alocated to Vlora Regional Council for salaries of shelter staff are not included in the report.

The salaries are transfered every month from Vlora Regional Council to the staff Bank account . For this reason this fund can not be included to annual financial report.

MOORE STEPHENS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Director of

Psycho Social Center VATRA
Address: Nenë Vlora Palasaj,

Vlora, Albania

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Psycho Social Center VATRA (the organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statement of activities - performance, statement of changes fund's balance and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Psycho Social Center VATRA as at December 31, 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with National Accounting Standards (NAS).

There are no other matters which we believe should be brought to your attention that require further action or consideration by you.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International S
these standards are further described in the Auditor's Respor
of our Report. We are independent of the company in accor
our audit of the financial statement in Albania and we have
with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence
a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statement wh
statement is prepared to provide information to different bo
Social Center VATRA legislation. As a result, the statement
is not modified in respect with this matter.

Responsibilities of Management's and those charged with

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair prese
the cash receipts and disbursement basis of accounting dete
accrual basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for prepari
and for such internal control as management determines is
statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due

MOORE STEPHENS

In preparing the financial statement, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial statement.

Inter BSK Auditing shpk

Tirana April 16, 2018

Legal Auditor