Psycho-Social Center

VATRA

Annual Report 2008

Financial support by NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

Vlorë 2009

Annual report 2008

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Design & prepress
Visi Design

The publication of this report was financed by:
The Norwegian Church Aid

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Another year of work and effort in a continuing struggle against the negative phenomena, which accompany the lives of people in need.

2008 would be different from the other years, for the responsibilities that the state institutions took towards the implementation of social and legal mechanisms to combat human trafficking; and the proactive cooperation of the international partners, efforts of whom led to another improved situation in relation to trafficking in human beings.

Of course, Vatra after 12 years feels more proud today than ever, for the contribution provided in the sensitization and awareness of the state structures and of the whole society on the risk that this phenomenon presents and also for the assistance given to the trafficked victims for their return to the normal social life.

When we started it 12 years ago we were alone, we were supported strongly by the international organizations, other local and regional organizations joined us but above all we were accepted and supported by the state institutions, which were seriously engaged in implementing the defined objectives in the National Anti-traffic Strategies of the Albanian State.

These achievements would not have been realized without the support of our donors such as: CAAHT (with USAID funding) The Norwegian Church Aid (with funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway) KTK Sweden, Sigrid Rausing Trust in London, the American Embassy, the Embassy of the United Kingdom etc; who have helped and contributed with counseling,

ideas, and concrete actions for the composition of a clear action plan to combat human trafficking.

Special thanks would also go to the staff of Vatra, who along with the volunteers have not left any areas without going and communities without touching; enabling not only the identification and assessment of problems of the strata in need, but at the same time addressing them for solution to the relevant institutions.

The success achieved this year will serve us as reference points in realizing the objectives for the year 2009 in order to fight and prevent the negative phenomena, particularly that of domestic violence.

Vera Lesko
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

Albania still remains a country with a low economic level, with a population always on the increase which has impoverished the different strata of the population. The report of the World Bank presented in November of 2008 emphasized that 90% of the population in the country is poor. Similarly, the report of the United Nations stressed for poverty, that nearly 30% of the population lives below the extreme poverty, and 25% - 30% more, at the potential level for life. The current situation with the ever-increasing poverty, low educational level, the ineffective work of the implementing structures of law, the internal political conflicts, have been and remain the main factors influential in the inclusion of women, girls and children in the networks of human trafficking.

Aware of the mission that we have and the work we do, the Vatra's staff in 2008 has tried and has undertaken sensitizing campaigns, especially towards the state institutions with the aim to make them aware to assess the current situation that exists in the country. We do not blame persons but work and continuously insist that the problems we identify to make them present to the government in order for the state institutions to take immediate measures to fight and prevent every negative phenomenon that has affected our society.

The economic crises has included many countries of the world, has created insecurity for the poor strata of the population who more then ever tend to leave Albania for the European countries putting frequently their lives at risk. During this year there have been present in our lives many tragic facts.

Given this situation, Vatra has worked even this year by touching every

edge of Albania in order to see by close the areas source of the phenomenon, assessing the main causes and factors that predominate in these areas, which force women and girls to get involved in human trafficking networks.
Based on concrete facts and analysis that they have done to all the main elements on which the external and domestic trafficking function; we have determined that we have a softening of the patriarchal mentality in relation to these phenomena, which have been unacceptable taboos in the community for many years. The fact that many minors girls and adults fled away from their families of origin to the areas that pose danger to them, or that many families of the rural areas continue to welcome the unknown "grooms" for their daughters; shows that the ever-increasing poverty, unemployment, the insecurity of the future, the inability to support their children, has forced them not to have priority the moral values of the family, leading to the destruction of the balances between family and society.
Throughout the year Vatra's staff has worked to give the appropriate information, in order to awake and pass to the individual, family and society the sense of protection and self-protection towards each phenomenon and the evil elements.

The internal trafficking still remains a concern today not only for the women and girls who are involved in these networks but for the whole society. This phenomenon continuous to take place in the form of the women's exploitation in daily prostitution in Albania. On the occasion of the European Day of Human Trafficking in October Vatra's staff conducted a questionnaire with the youngsters of the High Schools and of the Dormitory of the University the results of which showed that 87% of the youth accept the existence of the phenomenon; 79% of them accepted that the women and girls are exploited in prostitution and 57% of them knew concrete cases and 50% knew the hotels and motels that were used for this job and 33% think that for the exercise of prostitution rented houses are used by groups of women and girls coming from the rural areas or their cities.
In addition, 69% of the interviewees accepted that the most affected age

group is 15 – 20 years old and only 33% have accepted that the age group 21 – 25 years old is involved in prostitution.
These data show clearly for the dimensions this phenomenon has taken and its spread in very young ages group.
It is true that Albania has had results in the fight against human trafficking of the women, girls and children towards the European countries. However, it has not taken necessary measures to fight internal trafficking.

Another factor that has affected the development of this phenomenon has also been the attack against the traffickers and pimps that develop this trafficking by the legal institutions. During these 10 years Albania has improved its internal legislation but the work of the institutions for the implementation of the law leaves a lot to be desired. The institutions of justice in Albania have been indifferent and not sympathetic towards the victims who have dared to denounce their pimps.

The increase of the number of women and girls in the networks of internal trafficking and their sexual exploitation in the country shows that the fight against this phenomenon has not finished and that the Albanian Government has still many things to do.

Also another concern that is identified today but for which has not been done any analysis or situation evaluation on what the development of the daily prostitution generates is even the health condition of that strata of the population that is affected by this phenomenon.

The development of the daily prostitution in an uncontrolled way risks the encounter of the society and especially of the youth with infections and the spread of the dangerous diseases such as HIV/AIDS, STD etc.

The fact that there is no authentic study both from the State institutions and different NGO-s on this negative phenomenon, it urges the Albanian

Government to take measures in order to evaluate the situation for the control and diagnosis of the most affected strata of the society.
Another phenomenon always on the increase is even domestic violence which frequently is identified with crime within the family.

Crime and domestic violence have been inseparable parts of the life of the Albanians not only as a result of the economic poverty but even to the patriarchal and conservator mentality inherited from the past.

Even though the law "Measures against Domestic Violence ", has been approved, there have been defined clearly the duties towards the state structures for the qualification of cases of domestic violence and for the help that it should be given. In fact, it has not had results because the law begins after violence is consumed.

The number of women who are violated by their husbands or other family members is being increased. Many of them abandon their families, fled from the village towards the city without any support and being at risk by the traffickers who involve them in their networks and exploit them in prostitution.
Vatra center has worryingly attended this phenomenon and has noticed that a high number of women and girls accommodated in the shelter have been such cases that while getting out of domestic violence they have fallen pray to the traffickers being part in this way of another kind of violence that is more terrible, slavery and sexual exploitation.

Considering this situation as worrying, Vatra's staff especially that of the prevention Center has undertaken a series of sensitizing campaigns especially in the rural areas in order to inform the community for the consequences that this phenomenon generates. In addition, Vatra seeing that the number of the violated women increases form year to year it undertook another initiative that of the treatment of the victims of domestic violence offering

direct help for each requested service with specialists of the different fields. During this year, 60 beneficiaries have been treated with legal assistance in the community and 28 beneficiaries in the shelter and 14 violated women with health and psychological assistance

Even though we are in a situation where these two phenomena are presented in a complex way and are intertwined with each other, it is important that the state institutions and NGO-s that work in these two fields to undertake massive sensitizing measures in all the country for the prevention of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Having as its priority the support and treatment of the victims of human trafficking and domestic violence "Vatra" Center has undertaken such projects which have as a main objective not only the offering of services free of charge for the victims but at the same time to address and request to the State institutions the implementation of all the laws, decisions or instructions that the Albanian Government has undertaken in the framework of the implementation of the National Anti-traffic strategy and that of domestic violence. Thanks to Vatra's work and its successful cooperation with a series of State Institutions which are responsible for the implementation of the of the undertaken measures in these two fields; Vatra during 2008 realized its objectives and strengthened the relationships with all the main actors that work with these phenomena.

And concretely:

With the Ministry of Interior:

a) The drafting and approval of the National Anti-traffic strategy 2008-2010.

b) The law "On some Additions and changes to the law No. 8950 dated 10.10.2002" on civil state was approved; among which was the article for the tax removal of the Roma community.

With the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

a) The inclusion of the victims of trafficking in the state projects for job motivation (7 beneficiaries).
b) The opening of the new courses free of charge for the trafficked victims (cooking, hairdresser, handcrafts works etc)
c) The increase of the employed victims, (28 beneficiaries).

Cooperation with the Ministry of Education

a) Inclusion in the educational curricula of the high schools of the anti-traffic cycle of themes, a program prepared and published by Vatra. Especially in the High Schools of Vlora and Fier.
b) The increase of the number of the public schools in the rural and urban areas where Vatra holds the educational activities. Altogether, 18 schools.

Cooperation with the families and the community:

a) Alleviation of the patriarchal mentality regarding the phenomenon.
b) Increase of the number of the victims joining their families (75 women and girls and 5 children).
c) Increase of the number of the victims reintegrated in family and community (46 women and girls)
d) The provision of two Roma children (from Levan and Roskovec communities) with hearing devices.
f) The establishment and support of 5 micro-businesses for the beneficiaries (treated in the shelter) in Vlora District.

These and other achievements that will be identified below have affected and contributed to the giving of a direct impact not only to the target groups with which we work but for the whole society at a country level.

THE REALISED PROJECTS BY "VATRA" DURING 2008

PROJECT

> *"Shelter for the accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration for the trafficked, clandestine, violated and at risk women and girls".*

Financed by:

- Sigrid Rausing TRUST
- Kvinna Till Kvinna (KTK)
- The Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- CAAHT with funds of USAID
- Interreg Italy

The shelter is a comfortable house for the reception, assistance and treatment of the trafficked, violated and at risk women and girls. It is a project, which has started in 2001 and in continuity. Different services are offered here

such as accommodation, interviewing, health, psychological and legal assistance; vocational preparation, employment and temporary accommodation. In addition, other activities are conducted here with a social, cultural character such as the joining with the families, themes with an educating character, cultural activities in and out of the shelter, different handcrafts, reading in the library etc.
The project aims at preparing the victim with the reality and to sensitize her that her past and what she has experienced now belongs to the past and that she should look forward because even though the future seems difficult to be achieved it is her right to ask for it and live it. In this project, they find the opportunity to be informed, educated, to get strong in order to fight the evil, to get prepared in order to encounter the difficulties after their return at home or in the society. Similarly, it counsels and prepares the families for the acceptance of their children and it lobes and requests from the state institutions to take on the responsibilities and to implement the action plans drafted and approved by the Government in order to help these target groups.

GOAL

Reduced number of the trafficked violated, and at risk women and girls and a high number of victims that are reintegrated in their places of origin through the services that are offered in the shelter.

"Vatra" shelter with an eight-year experience has made possible the assistance and treatment not only of a high number of trafficked and violated victims but also of a high number of victims integrated in the family and community by realizing in this way the final aim; that of the reduction of the number of victims involved in the networks oh human trafficking.
Even this year Vatra treated and reintegrated 46 women and girls. If we see the reached results in the framework of the project; achievements that have affected not only specific individuals but a wider scale such as the families, the communities with different ethnicities, the institutions and the Albanian

society itself we say that the project even this year has brought changes by affecting directly in the reduction of a considerable number of reintegrated girls who have get out of the networks of human trafficking.
These are successful and specific indicators that "Vatra" has realized for years by giving an indisputable contribution to the alleviation of the phenomenon of human trafficking not only at a country level but even wider in the region. Every year Vatra in the framework of this project supported in real facts and events simultaneously conducts even a dense sensitizing campaign with the families and the communities in the areas where the victims live. This has resulted to a sharp reduction of the women and girls involved in trafficking such as Vlora, Lushnja, Berati, Kucova etc.

The giving of the award "National Anti-traffic Expert" to Vatra regarding the recognition and analysis that makes for the development of the phenomenon in Albania has contributed not only to the identification of the problems it generates but also to the defining of the causes and elements that stimulate it in the different areas of Albania enabling the taking of measures from all the actors especially the state ones who are involved in the Anti-traffic fight at country level.

OBJECTIVE

Objective 1: Provide a safe and comfortable environment where the women and girls could have access in the services offered: accommodation, interviewing, legal and health assistance, individual counseling and also in the family.

The reached results

1. 107 women, girls and children were accommodated and treated with the services in the shelter.
2. 107 women, girls and children profited health assistance and counseling.

3. 76 women and children profited psycho-social assistance.
4. 25 women and girls in the shelter and in the community were assisted in the judicial processes by the lawyer.
5. 108 counseling in the family were realized by the Center's staff.

As it can be seen even from the reached results we do not have only a realized objective but for many activities of this objective the indicators have been exceeded in unpredicted figures. These achievements are product of the serious work of Vatra's staff land of the good exploitation of all the possible resources which have been used during this project.

Objective 2: The reintegration of women and girls in the communities of their origin, and in other shelters or safe places.

The reached results

1. 33 women and girls were prepared in the courses of professional education.
2. 7 women and girls were included in the projects of job motivation initiated by the Regional Directory of Employment.
3. 28 girls were employed in different private entities.
4. 4 girls continue the 9th grade school, the high school and the university.
5. 4 girls have been selected and their small family micro-businesses were established.
6. 1 girl was supported with basic materials and assistance for her family micro- businesses.

This is one of the most important objectives of the project. This is because the reintegration process of the victims is related directly to the impact of the project itself in the society. The higher the number of the reintegrated victims, the greater the number of the exploited victims who have come out of the traffickers' networks. The results achieved compared with those predicted

for this target show that the figures reflected above are key indicators which have contributed to alleviating the phenomenon nationwide.

Objective 3: To continue the partnership with the State and the National Coalition of Albanian Shelters, as a member of the group of the Anti-trafficking State Responsible Authority; in order to urge the compilation and implementation of National Anti-trafficking acting plan.

The reached results

1. 7 new signed agreements with the local government of Vlore, Fier, Berat Districts, Education Directories and NGO-s.
2. Drafting and approval by the Ministry of Interior of the National Anti-traffic strategy 2008-2010 where "Vatra" with other NGO-s and institutions were part of the working group.
3. The inclusion of the victims of trafficking in the state projects for job motivation (7 beneficiaries).
4. The opening of the new courses free of charge for the trafficked victims (cooking, hairdresser, handcrafts works etc)
5. The increase of the employed victims, (28 beneficiaries).
6. Inclusion in the educational curricula of the high schools of the anti-traffic cycle of themes, a program prepared and published by Vatra. Especially in the High Schools of Vlora and Fier.
7. The increase of the number of the public schools in the rural and urban areas where Vatra holds the educational activities. Altogether 18 schools.

The year 2008 was a year where the Board and Vatra's staff was devoted like never before to lobe to the central state institutions and to the local ones in order to make them aware to take on the responsibilities and implement all the laws, decisions, orders and guidelines released by the Government in support of the trafficked victims and those of domestic violence.

ACTIVITIES

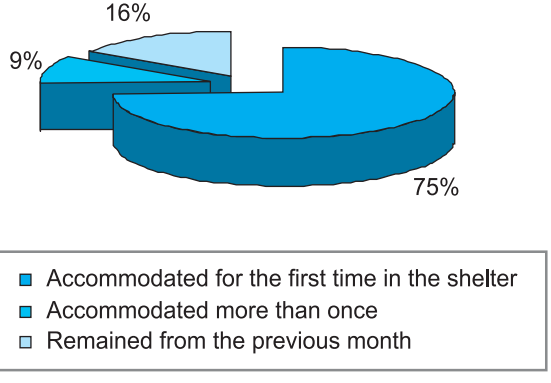
Accommodation

The process of accommodation for the beneficiaries in the shelter during this year has resulted successful thanks to a very good cooperation between Vatra and the Police Directories, the organizations that work in the same field, the community etc.

During this year were accommodated and received all the offered services 90 women and girls and children. (In this figure there have not been included the number of 17 girls remained from December 2007 who have received onwards the year 2008 services of rehabilitation and reintegration).

If we made a division of the total number of the accommodated for the period that we report, we would have this table:

ACCOMMODATION	*GIRLS AND WOMEN*	*CHILDREN*	***TOTAL***
Accommodated for the first time in the shelter	70	8	***80***
Accommodated more than once	10		***10***
Remained from the year 2007	17		***17***
	99	8	***107***



As you can see from the table the total number of those accommodated in the shelter and have received the services in the shelter (including even those remained) has been 107 beneficiaries.

Referral of cases

During this year even though the cooperation with the Police Directories of Southern Albania with which "Vatra" has contractual agreements has not been so good it is worth emphasizing the cooperation with the Police Directory of Vlora (in particular that of Saranda)and the Police Directory of Fier which have made a number of referrals not only of women and girls but also of children that are caught and returned from the Greek Police.

1. The Police Directories 46 cases:

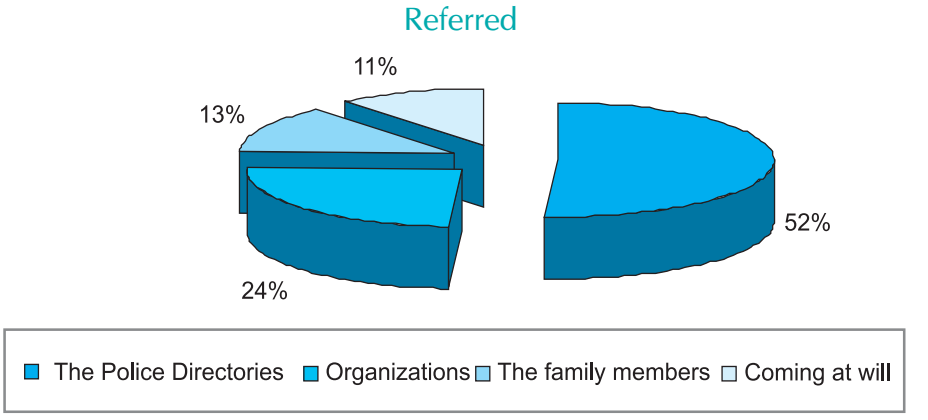
- The General Police Directory: 1 woman and 2 children.
- Fier Police: 14 women and girls and 2 children.
- Berat Police : 7 girls
- Vlore Police: 16 girls and 2 children.
- Kukes Police: 1 woman and 1 child.

2. Organizations 22 cases :

- The reception Center Linze : 5 girls (from which 1 accommodated even another time in the shelter)
- Reception Center "Life and Hope" Gjirokaster : 5 girls
- The woman center Berat : 2 women and girls
- The orphan's Association in Elbasan : 1 girl
- Different and Equal : 2 girls
- The Catholic Church in Vlora: 2 women and girls and 1 child.
- The Woman Center "Aulona": 3 girls
- The Counseling *Center in Durres:* *1 girl*

3. The family members : 12 girls

4. Coming at will (referred by themselves) : 10 women and girls



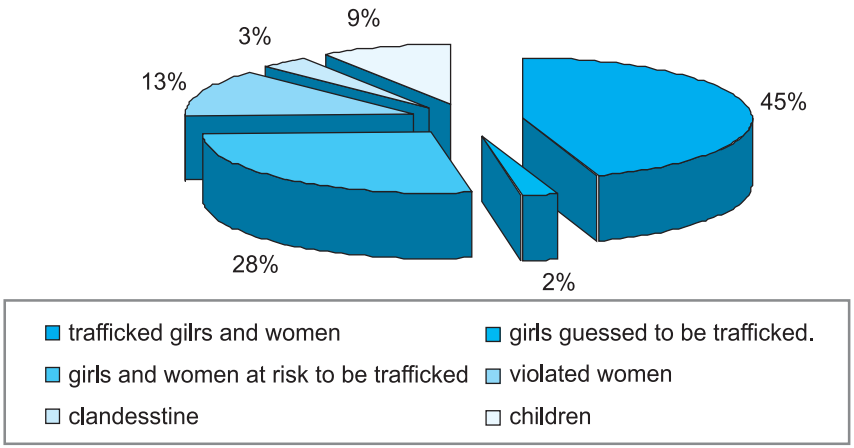
Interviewing - Identification

For each beneficiary (except the children) at first the social group has made the interview and has used the information taken from the Police in order to identify them and define the exact group where they will be included. This process is most subtle and difficult of the staff's work due to the problems that the beneficiaries present, especially the victims of human trafficking. Then all the procedures of accommodation have been followed by all the beneficiaries.

From 90 accommodated beneficiaries:

- 29 girls and women identifies as trafficked (accommodated for the first time)
- 2 girls were guessed to be trafficked.
- 10 trafficked girls (accommodated more than once in the shelter)
- 27 girls and 3 children (from whom 2 boys) have been identifies as at risk to be trafficked.
- 11 violated women.
- 3 clandestine women
- 5 children (accompanied by their mother)

Identification



Rehabilitation

Medical assistance

The medical assistance is offered for all the beneficiaries since their moment of accommodation. The doctor has given the right medication relying on the health problems they have had. For those cases that needed more specific medical assistance the beneficiaries have turned to the Regional Hospital of Vlora District to be treated by the relevant specialists.

There have been realized **423 health visits** (repeated). The health problems have mainly been: asthma, colitis, gastritis, flu, cephalic, bronchitis, gynecological, psychic, etc. The used medications have been relevant to the health problems presented by the beneficiary.

They have been attended by specialist doctors for genealogical problems, **23 cases** and in particular a case of a pregnant woman (16 weeks).

In addition, the dentist has attended **22** cases.

"Aulona" Center in Vlora in the framework of the cooperation with "Vatra" offers free of charge for the beneficiaries in the shelter the analysis of Pap-Test.

In the framework of cooperation with the regional Anti-traffic committee of Vlora district, we have signed the cooperation contract with the Directory of Public Health, in Vlora for the realization of all the analysis of STD free of charge (Infections sexullay transmitted). During these three months the analysis for **23** beneficiaries were made for STD. 6 of them have resulted with HEPATIT B. The six beneficiaries are under the continuous control and treatment of the shelter's doctor.
Special care has been given to the children of the beneficiaries related to their visits to the doctor for their vaccination. The medical service that is offered for the beneficiaries due to the problems their problems has been considered as very important but it is accompanied with a high financial cost. Vatra has also cooperated with the state health institutions and aims at making these services being offered free of charge by these institutions in the framework of the implementation of the Anti-traffic Strategy 2008 – 2010.

Legal assistance:

Since 2007 and onwards Vatra gives qualified legal assistance and protection for the beneficiaries in the shelter. The lawyer of Vatra advises and prepares all the legal procedures for the witness victims, accompanies and assists the victims in all the institutions of the law and follows with priority the progress of these processes.
Thanks to this work, the beneficiaries feel safer and are prepared for what they should request from these organs. Under the continuous persistence and assistance of the victims it has become possible the attendance of all the judicial processes until the end and judgment of the exploiters. This happens because there still continue to work irresponsible persons in the organs of justice who prolong the processes for years in order for the victims to be tired and to withdraw the denunciations. Vatra has continuously made

present to the relevant institutions these problems.
The lawyer of the center has assisted and attended during this period all the judicial procedures of the **10 cases of the trafficked girls, 11 violated women and 4 at risk. She has also given counseling for 42 women and girls.**
Also it has given legal counseling and has conducted discussions in group with the accommodated girls for themes such as: Human trafficking, the law for the protection of victim witness and the law for measures against domestic violence, etc.

Psycho-Social assistance and counseling

Based on the problems that the accommodated girls have had such as: neurosis, depression, psychological stress, low self-evaluation, self-blameness etc, there have been realized individual and in-group sessions not only from the psychologist but also from the social workers.

Individual counseling has been offered in agreement with the personal needs of the beneficiaries adapting them to the individual plan of reintegration. These counseling is focused on the stability of their emotional state, increase of self-evaluation, plans for the future, independent life, relationships with the family and the others, professional trainings etc. during these period there have been given **362 individual counseling (in a repeated way).**

Counseling in-group is another rapport of relationships with the beneficiaries. These counseling have been mainly focused on the establishment of correct relationships among the girls themselves, with the staff, with the employer, families etc. During this period there have been realized 114 **counseling in-group.**
In the framework of this activity, the social group has conducted even meetings in-group where have been discussed social themes based on the interest of the beneficiaries.

Socio-cultural and entertaining activities in and out of the shelter

During this period there have been realized **10 socio-cultural activities** outside the surroundings of the shelter : Concretely in the antique city of Fier , in Apolloni, in Vlora city, in Ardenice Lushnje, in Castle of Berat, in the mountain of Llogara Vlore etc.

Furthermore, based on an approved program many cultural and entertaining activities have been realized in the shelter such as: games with ball, feasts of birthdays or official ones, free discussions with the beneficiaries etc.
The social workers have offered assistance for the beneficiaries so that they could improve their skills for life including exercises for reading and writing, activities with an educative character and discussions in group with different themes etc.

Similarly, during the summer the accommodate women and girls have gone to the beach accompanied by the shelter's staff.
Since May and in continuity in cooperation with the World Vision one American representative of this organization conducts once a week with the beneficiaries in the shelter different creative works and lessons of the English language.

Activities are also offered to develop skills for life and thanks to the cooperation with other organizations like the Catholic Church, "Aulona" Center, CSDC, etc., which have contributed to the organization and development of cultural activities.
"Aulona" Center in the framework of its activities in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health conducted one day training with the beneficiaries and the staff of the shelter with theme "How to be protected from sexually transmitted infections". At the end of the activity the beneficiaries got some presents such as clothing.

REINTEGARTION

The inclusion of the girls in the reintegration programs requires maximum devotion and a qualified work by the staff of the shelter for the selection of the girls that will profit from this program.
Particular attention is also paid to the work for the strengthening of cooperation with Professional Formation Center in Vlora to expand the variety of activities that are offered free of charge such as tailoring, cooking etc; and with the Regional Directory of Employment in order to include the girls in the promotion employment projects for the strata in need.
Also, the cooperation with the other shelters of the same kind has been considered effective during the years of Vatra's work for case referrals, exchange of information etc..

Contact establishment with the families of the victims and their return to the family. (Joining the family)

Priority of Vatra's work has been and remains to be the joining of the girls and women with their families and the establishment of right and normal relationships with them.

However, their joining with the family members is done only after the actual family situation of the victim is well-studied and circumstances in which she has been involved in trafficking. After this verification is done then the first contact with the families is established; work continuous with them until their awareness for the acceptance of the girls; and the plan of their returning home is composed by the social group of the shelter. **73 beneficiaries and 5 children** have joined their families during the year 2008.

Family counseling for the victims and the family members

The shelter's staff makes a special and continuous work with all the families of the girls who are accommodated in the shelter. This work continuous

even after they come out of the shelter and join their families.
During this year the staff has given counseling for the victims and their family members for the establishment of normal relationships between them. In addition, the staff has made known to the family members the services offered in the shelter in the framework of the rehabilitation and reintegration programs of the victims. The social group has composed the individual plan of rehabilitation- reintegration with the will of the beneficiaries and of the family members, which is included in the program.

108 counseling with the family members of the beneficiaries have been realized from which 57 of them in the family and others 51 in the counseling office in the Prevention Center of "Vatra".

Referrals in other institutions

There have been mutual referral of cases even for this year in the framework of the function of the National Coalition of the Anti-traffic Albanian Shelters in order to give to the beneficiaries opportunities related to the services that are offered to them. In addition, the cooperation with organizations that work in the same field has been strengthened.
So:

- Vatra to "Different and Equal": 4 girls and 1 woman
- Vatra to the reception Center Linze : 1 girl and 2 boys (at risk to be trafficked)
- The reception Center Linze to Vatra : 5 girls (from which one accommodated even another time in the shelter).
- Reception Center "Life and Hope" Gjirokaster to Vatra : 5 girls
- The woman center Berat to Vatra : 2 women and girls
- The orphan's Association in Elbasan to Vatra : 1 girl
- Different and Equal to Vatra : 2 girls

- The Catholic Church in Vlora to Vatra: 2 women and girls and 1 child.
- The woman's Center «Aulona » to Vatra: 3 girls.
- The Counseling Center in Durres to Vatra: 1 girl.

Educational reintegration programs adapted in individual way

Vocational courses

Another important aspect of Vatra's work related to the implementation of the reintegration program of the beneficiaries is even the attendance of the trainings and preparation in their vocational courses. The beneficiaries are valued at first by the Head of the Social group and the coordinator of the shelter related to the kind of course they should attend in agreement with the individual plan of reintegration that has been prepared for each beneficiary in particular. In order to realize this activity, Vatra since 2003 and in continuity cooperates closely with the Professional Formation Center in Vlora in order for the courses to be free of charge or in a reduced payment. Based on their educational and cultural level, socio-economic conditions in the family, the beneficiary's will, the staff makes the selection of the beneficiaries that will be prepared professionally in the courses of: tailoring, hairdressing, cooking and computer which are conducted to the Professional Formation Center in Vlora.

So, during the year 2008, 33 girls were prepared professionally.
From these:

- Finished the hairdressing course 12 girls
- Were registered and are attending the hairdressing course 6 girls
- Finished the cooking course 3 girls
- Finished the tailoring course 2 girls
- Attending the tailoring course 4 girls
- Finished the embroidery course 6 girls

From the 12 girls that finished the hairdressing course **4 of them** were employed as assistant hairdressers in beauty saloons of Vlora city and the **others 8** practice their profession close to their families.
The girls that are actually in the shelter and that have finished the courses before; exercise their professions with the equipments given to the surroundings of the shelter such as: tailoring machine, the place of cosmetics, the training room where the computers are placed etc.

Education
Related to the process of registration of the beneficiaries to the schools it has been closely cooperated with the Regional Directory of Education in Vlora and the school directories. This has helped in the facilitation of the registration procedures and in the offering of the help of a teacher that give consultative sessions for the growth of their educational capacity.
The part-time high school is being attended by 4 girls and the 9th grade by another one and a girl started studying in the first year in Vlora University. Supported by the American Embassy courses against illiteracy are offered in the shelter. This activity more extensively is reflected in the project of the American Embassy.

Employment
Another very important element for the reintegration process is employment. The moment that the beneficiaries finish the vocational courses and think of going out semi-independently, Vatra's staff continues the attempts for their employment. There are many difficulties during the employment process due to their low educational level and to their professional formation. Another difficulty is that some beneficiaries do not want to attend the vocational courses but they want to be employed immediately. In such cases their employment becomes even more difficult since it is known that the labour market is limited even for qualified persons.
Another difficulty is the employment of the mothers with children who cannot work in private entities that function in Vlora due to the hours of

kindergardens and nurseries of the children. However, it has been years that Vatra cooperates with the Regional Directory of Employment which has helped a high number of beneficiaries referred by us to be employed. During the period January – December 2008, there have been employed in private entities **28** girls from whom:

4 girls in beauty saloons as hairdresser's assistant

4 girls as a cleaner in two greengrocer's.

12 girls in a tailoring factory which were included in the motivation programs of employment of the Regional Directory of Employment , Vlore. At the end of the program which lasts 4 months they ensure a one-yearly job contract with the business institution contracted and monitored by the Directory of Employment.

3 girls as social operators to World Vision in Vlora and to the Prevention Center in Vera.

2 girls as in dry cleaning shops

1 as a cook assistant.

2 girls as shop assistant in two boutiques of Vlora.

Grants for micro-business establishment

In the framework of the prevention project, NCA which actually supports this project, one of the services included in the project is also the provision of a grant for a business establishment for the ex victims of trafficking who have been reintegrated in the social life. Vatra' staff selected 5 girls who are beneficiaries of this grant. Concretely this grant was used:

in Novosel Commune for the establishment of a tailoring shop.
in Selenice Municipality a beauty saloon.
in Risili village (Shushice Commune) a beauty saloon.
in Çeprat (Shushice Commune) a beauty saloon.
in Vlora a beneficiary was supported with the basic materials of her saloon.

Also in the framework of this activity, the shelter's staff has attended the case of the beneficiary who took credit from the project of ILO/ Migrant and OSCE, for the establishment of a beauty saloon. Comparing the actual situation of her incomes from the business with that of the three previous months, this situation has apparently improved. Despite this, the beneficiary with this income covers only the payment of the credit and the taxes of the state, and nothing remains to face the family financial expenses.
For this reason there should be facilitations in the direction of tax payment with the target group with which we work. Also the organizations that give funds on credit for the establishment of micro-business for the victims should give them as a grant so that the income that come from the business could go directly for the victim and her family and not for the payment of the credit.

Provision of birth certificates

Provision of certificates from the civil state is an important request because this document gives correct information for the beneficiaries that are accommodated in the shelter.
This document also enables the solution of the many problems that the beneficiaries have such as problems for the registration in schools, equipment with passports, issuing judicial processes, employment, etc.

For the realization of this service, the staff has also been helped by the Police Directories of the Districts and the local government in the areas from which come the beneficiaries. So, **82 girls** have been provided with Birth Certificates for the year 2008 and two of them with passports.

Rental apartment

The beneficiaries that are assisted in the rental apartment are those that have finished the second phase of the reintegration program. These beneficiaries after they have accumulated a small some of incomes during their period of employment are accommodated in the rental apartment. However, they continue to be assisted by Vatra's staff in relation to the problems and the

difficulties they face in their daily life in order to help them and solve their problems.
Their main problem has been the inadequacy of the incomes received by employment. Based on this, they have been helped by the staff with food, payment of electricity and water, gas for cooking etc, within the funds of the project and for other personal needs.

THE MONITORING OF THE PROJECT

The monitoring of the project is a process which we make directly during the realization of the activities and after their completion, out of the shelter in the families and community.
Two working groups have been established this year to realize the monitoring, one by the Directory and the other one by the staff that works directly with the beneficiaries.
Both these groups have contrasted the controlled duties, the noticed deficiencies and the problems that have come up. During this year both these groups have alternated their work with each other regarding the relationships with the beneficiaries and the families, state institutions and community.
The relationships with the beneficiaries and the families have been monitored during this year more frequent by the social group while the relationships with the state institutions and the community by the Directory, Administrative Council and Board.
Since the project is a house where women, girls and children live, it is understood that even the activities that are conducted are in their support. For this Vatra's staff realizes the monitoring of the offered services directly with the beneficiaries through:

Telephone line. This monitoring is done continuously and every day with the victims who have left the shelter and live close to their families.
Through the telephone the staff is interested in the life the beneficiaries actually have, the problems they have had and how they have solved the

difficulties and the personal needs, in the relationships with the family members and the relatives etc.
For any information received the staff has acted in accordance with the requirements that they have had, specifically by assisting them in resolving their obstacles.

Visits in the work place or rental apartments. Each social worker has attended them by close by paying a visit to the house or to the places of work the cases they are responsible for. They have assessed the situation of the beneficiaries and have advised them for the good-administration of life, management of incomes etc.

The social workers keep regular contacts and visits with the employers of the factories where the beneficiaries have been employed in order to see their progress to their place of work as a very important element for the realization of the reintegration program.

Visits in the offices of Vatra. The visits of the beneficiaries in the offices of Vatra during this year have been a lot and continuous. They have telephoned directly to discuss and ask for help for any problem they have had. In these cases the social workers, the coordinator of the shelter or even the director have advised and address the problem according to the needs for their solution.

Visits in the areas where the beneficiaries live. The supportive and monitoring assistance is done by the social workers in the areas where they live for all the beneficiaries that return to their family. Of course, these are visits that are made once in 2 or 3 months but even more frequently in any case based on the requests made by the beneficiaries themselves. The visits have to do with capacity building of the family members, of the help and support they should give to their families.
Also Vatra has supported the beneficiaries that live in the different areas of the country through the cooperation with other organizations that operate

in these areas such as Fier, Lushnje, Berat, Gjirokaster, Vlore, Sarande, Permet, Tepelene, Korce etc.

THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

The evaluation of the project has been one of the priorities of "Vatra" and it has tried to avoid and face all the possible concerns that have come up during its realization.
For this year the project has been evaluated by:

Donors: The project has been evaluated frequently during this year for the fact that it is supported financially by five donors. It is understood that each donor has been to us no more than twice this year. Also since Vatra is a correct and quite transparent organization, the donors have made the evaluation of the project not only for the activities that they support but for the whole project in general. Their evaluations have been maximal which are documented in special reports.

By the state institutions: Similarly, it has been inspected by the Ministry of Social Services and Equal Opportunities 6 times. The group of inspectors has controlled the implementation of the standards for the social services in the residential centers and have written their conclusions in special reports for each inspection.

By the Board and the Administrative Council: Vatra's Board and the Administrative Council have been activated with concrete plans to measure by close its results.
It has been evaluated by the Board twice for special activities such as:

a) For the training of the beneficiaries after their coming out of the shelter; so in family and community.
b) For the financial expenditure (Banks, cash box and the expenditure in some main items of the budget.

By the auditors: A partial audition of the project has been done only for the funds of KTK and TRUST, funds which were completed in December 31st. The other part will be audited by the Swiss agency in April of 2009 after the full completion of the project. The evaluation of the auditing agency in Tirana was very good. Based on the acts left by all the representatives that have been included in the evaluation we can say that the results have been quite good and encouraging.

The evaluation of the project is realized every month even by the Director of Vatra especially concerning the financial expenditure in order to avoid the irregularities and to keep under control the unnecessary expenses. All the evaluating actors have brought new experiences in the direction of the development of the activities, of their monitoring and of the good managing of funds.

It is exactly the use of these elements that have made possible the reduction of the costs of the project. For the same project during the year 2007 have been spent 205 594 EUR while during this year there have been spent 182749 EUR.

DIFFICULTIES

1. The non-functioning in a correct way of the National Mechanism of Reference where the Police as the main actor of the referral of the victims has not cooperated seriously with the shelters signatory of this agreement. This has caused the reduction of the number of the victims referred in the shelter. Even though for this difficulty Vatra has realized some meetings with Heads of the Ministry of Interior and other state institutions where it has presented with concrete facts the non-cooperation, this situation continues to remain a problem because the Albanian Government wants to minimize the number of the victims involved in trafficking so that Albania could be presented to the Internationals one as a country without trafficking.

The referrals of the victims in the shelter have been solved with the strengthening of cooperation of the other resources such as NGO-s, families,

communes and the community.

2. The non-functioning of the Anti-traffic Regional Committee has made many problems which "Vatra" would make present to the meetings of the Technique Table of this committee, not to be known to the state institutions, members of the KRAT. However, there have been sent 3 three-monthly to the institution of the Prefecture where the activities, problems and the faced difficulties have been presented so that information could be given regarding the Anti-traffic work in Vlora.

3. The prolongation of the judicial processes by the organs of the law, Attorney's House and court. In our shelter there are beneficiaries that have denounced their protectors and have been waiting for a year and a half for their procedures to end. By the directing staff and by the lawyer of the center it has been contacted and discussed to the state institutions such as: The National Anti-traffic Coordinator, the General Prosecutor's, the prosecution of the Heavy Crimes etc., for the urge for the completion of the procedures within the defined time periods in the law. Since we did not have any solution in these institutions, the problem was made present to the organization of CAAHT and USAID, which undertook the treatment of the case in higher instances.

4. Another difficulty that we encounter id the impossibility of the beneficiaries to cover the payment of the rental apartment after the completion of the payment of the rent which is paid by Vatra projects. This has been discussed a lot to the local government, it has been raised as a concern even to the meetings of the technique tables of the Anti-traffic Regional Committee but nothing has been done from their part. It is a responsibility of the Albanian State and concretely of the local government the support in these cases of the beneficiaries with long-term accommodation because all the work done by Vatra is thrown away. It is known that due to a limit in funds we can not support them for a long term period; because all the work done by the staff falls down when you think that the victims because of inability to pay it back again end up again on the streets.

PROJECT

Improving the social and cultural status of the trafficked, violated and endangered women and girls in order to further their integration into normal life of society.

Financed by:

The American Embassy

This project was undertaken to meet the needs of the trafficked, endangered and violated girls and women, to prepare them, not only professionally, but also in educational level, with the aim of enabling them to find other reintegrating opportunities.

OBJECTIVE

Objective1: Rehabilitation and reintegration of girls and women, victims of trafficking and
domestic violence or those threatened by such phenomena.

Objective 2: Increase the level of information to victims of trafficking and domestic violence on the social problems that generate negative phenomena, with the aim of prevention and protection for them.

ACTIVITIES

Activities are developed to the fulfillment of the objectives undertaken in the framework of the project.

Education

This activity is conducted by the teacher who is part of the shelter's staff through the professional courses adopted against illiteracy. During this year it has been worked with four illiterate girls with programs approved by the

Ministry of Education. The teacher has performed its duties by providing lessons every day to the illiterate beneficiaries accommodated in the shelter with the program adapted to primer and Mathematics. In primer it has been worked for the beneficiaries to recognize and read the letters. It has been worked hard in practicing their abilities in reading fluently.
The progress of a beneficiary attending the 9-year school has been followed closely through daily control in learning and interest in school through various meetings with parents or even under problems presented. Similarly, the teacher has had as priority the progress of 4 beneficiaries who attend the part-time High School and of another beneficiary that is year started the studying in the University of Vlora.
Part of the teacher's responsibilities has been the attending of the lessons of a beneficiary's son in the first-class who is attending a program of reintegration and is accommodated in a rented apartment.

Vocational preparation

The staff of the project has made the selection of 4 beneficiaries for the vocational course of hairdressing. This selection was made based on their educational level, their will to attend the course and the chances they will have to practice this profession after the completion of the course. Continuous monitoring will be done by the staff for the progress of these beneficiaries in this course in order to be close to their needs for better professional. At the end of the course these beneficiaries will receive a certificate by the Professional Formation Center and a hairdressing kit.

The embroidery activity and handmade works

One of the activities that is conducted in the shelter is embroidery and handmade works. During their free time, generally during the afternoon the beneficiaries spend time exercising their skills in the embroidering adapted to the different models offered by the catalogues, or even at work with beads as a new style of handmade work popular recently among women and girls.

Also, once a week the beneficiaries are included in the course of creative works led by a representative of World Vision organization. Mainly, the girls do such works necklaces, earrings, bracelets, different cards.., gift interesting patterns, etc.

Different activities with social themes

A special time for the beneficiaries was devoted also to the activities of other social topics developed inside and outside the environments of the shelter. Thus, during this period different educational sessions were conducted with social themes for the awareness and the increasing of the level of information of the beneficiaries
regarding various social phenomena such as:

At the international days against violence and abuse against women and children and the day of tolerance we have developed a series of educational sessions with the beneficiaries in the shelter (once a week!). These topics were selected
According to the problems of the beneficiaries:

- "Violence in terms of trafficking of human beings" (conducted by the teacher of the shelter)
- "Violence in my life" where the emphasis is placed on the psychological violence (conducted by the psychologist of the center)
- "Law on measures against domestic violence" (conducted by the center's lawyer)

These topics have clear information on the violence used against women and girls victims of trafficking, of the different types of violence and how they can be identified by the beneficiaries themselves, as well as the existence already in Albania of a law for all those who exercise violence in the family. In this way the beneficiaries, not only profited knowledge, but were also prepared how to react differently on a day when they are independent and reintegrated in the society.

On the occasion of the International Day against AIDS and other STD an educational session has been conducted , "AIDS and SST by the coordinator of the shelter, a session accompanied a few days later by a training with the same name and purpose from the center "Aulona" in the shelter.
The information provided in these two sessions was a lot to recognize more closely the risk of AIDS and other STD in general, as well as at national level, for the situation presented regarding the infected persons in Albania with the disease of the century. The numerous
questions of the beneficiaries and the open discussion were a sign of their considerable informing on this topic.

- During this month on the occasion of the international day of human rights there was also a session where the lawyer gave a wider overview to the beneficiaries regarding the Charter of
human rights, including no doubt even their rights as a human being.

- At the international day of writing and reading the native language the teacher in collaboration with the coordinator of the shelter held a poetry competition with the beneficiaries, poems selected from various authors known as Albanian and poetry created by the beneficiaries. This competition gave a better recognition to the beneficiaries of the native language, encouraged them to learn various poems and books of the shelter's library. Also in this competition the progress of the illiterate beneficiaries was noted and those who currently continue school.

During January a series of topics related to marriage have developed, as a topic very interesting and asked by the beneficiaries, but at the same time as a way to give them a positive view with
regard to marriage and their future life Specifically, this series was seen under these topics:

"Marriage, a choice or a solution?"
Wedding, the day a girl dreaming more in her life,"
"The perception of being beautiful on the wedding day";

These topics are conducted by the coordinator of shelter with the teachers and the social workers in the shelter, in order to give the beneficiaries the opportunity to continue the hairdressing course as well as those who had committed earlier to show their skills and what they had benefited through the given course.

All these activities provided a good perspective on how the beneficiaries will see their lives, giving hope and security simultaneously, that one day they will be able to be happy in their wedding and in their future. The cooperation between the beneficiaries divided into two groups, was also a positive sign in their socialization with each other.

Along with social sessions according to a set thematic, before have been conducted even free conversations with the beneficiaries such as: conversation in relation to human communication and its importance; free conversations of read from newspapers, films history, social themes etc. All these conversations aimed at the acquaintance in a more social level and more freely of the beneficiaries, their interests and desires, and the concept of their ongoing life, so that our assistance at this level to be more tangible.

Another social activity held in the premises of the shelter is also the dance course which includes teaching various aerobic dances, Latin, classical .., with the aim of spending free time in an other pleasant and creative way, desirable from the beneficiaries and as a way of removal of stress and their negative energies.
This time is filled with the celebration of the birthdays of the beneficiaries under the respective dates, such as the National holidays; November 28-29, holidays of Christmas and of the New Year, etc.
Apart from the activities within the shelter other activities out of it have

been conducted such as in Llogara, Narte, Pojan, Ardenice etc. seen this as a way of entertainment for the beneficiaries but also for raising their cultural level through the presentation of the development of history in the archaeological sites of the country.

This project continues until June 2009.

PROJECT

"Awareness campaign for the sensitizing of the young people, girls and women of the roma and egyptians communities for the risk human trafficking presents and further reintegration of the victims of this traffic."

Financed by:

The Norwegian Church Aid

"Vatra" Center has nearly over 10 years working in the field of human trafficking and in all these years it has given its contribution to prevent and mitigate the consequences of this phenomenon. From 1999 through the ongoing projects of prevention sensitizing campaigns are conducted with young people, women and the community in general in urban and rural areas.

These past two years, Vatra has focused its work on this field, in two districts: Vlora and Fier, and specifically with young people, women and girls of the Roma and Egyptian community.

This focus came as a result of a several-year study conducted by Vatra, on the target groups most vulnerable to be involved in human trafficking networks.

The low educational level of girls and children from these communities, unemployment, the mentality of their marriages and their lifestyle, are decisive factors that help and create criminal
groups to be involved them in trafficking.

Considering right the situation in which these communities are, the staff has worked directly in the areas that have the highest concentration of members of these communities; such as in Novosel commune, Shushica commune of Vlora district, Levan Commune and the Municipality of Roskovec in Fier district.

The work done by "Vatra" in these communities, especially with the Roma, was focused on a well-combined campaign of the good work in organized groups distributing information house to house; and the provision of free social services for
all those beneficiaries who requested them.
This work made possible the increase of the level of information for 140 members of the Roma families; for 1500 young; and to identify and help women and girls involved in human trafficking.
The partnership with the Roma associations, which operate in these areas, with the communes and municipalities, as well as the involvement in Vatra's staff members of these communities; brought a qualitative change not only in successfully realizing the goals of the project but also in establishing relationships of trust and strong mutual laws, which were reflected in the organization of the serious work of Vatra with Heads of the local Government to support and help the Roma and Egyptian, in solving the problems and worries they have.
The registration of a high number of Roma children unregistered before, offering free legal service for property, marriage settlement, provision of health care (two children benefited free hearing devices), and the inclusion of 5 girls in the social reintegration programs (establishment of family micro-businesses), are some of the achievements of this project during 2008.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT

Large number of members of the Roma and Egyptian community, mainly Roma women and girls as well as sensitized youth of schools to prevent the risk of trafficking in human beings and social support for the reintegration of the trafficked victims by this community in the Municipalities: Fier, Vlora, Roskovec, and Communes: Novosel, Shushica and Levan.

OBJECTIVE

Objective 1:
Awareness raised among Roma youth, women and girls through information dissemination on the risks that human trafficking represent and measures that should be taken to protect vulnerable girls and women from trafficking.

Objective 2:
Facilitation of the registration process of the Roma children in the areas included in the project and the re-integration of Roma girls and children.

Objective 3:
Local institutions and NGOs have been empowered to take responsibility in the fight against human trafficking, in the reintegration process of the victims and have acknowledged the rights of minorities.

Areas where it was realized:

Novosel
Shushice
Levan
Roskovec

Target Groups of the projects:

- 140 women and girls from four communities Vlora and Fier.
- 1500 pupils in schools.
- Leader and representatives from local institutions (municipalities-communes) as well as representatives of Roma associations.

ACTIVITIES

Educational sessions with the students:

The realization of this activity in the areas where the project lied, required as an emergent need the establishment of contacts with the main leaders of the schools due to the start of the new school year, where we would work and as well the signing of cooperation agreements with all the educational institutions. So, 11 agreements were signed from 7 predicted because the staff lied its work even in other schools in Vlora city.

This made it possible that this activity considered by Vatra as one of the main objectives of the Prevention Center to be carried out successfully increasing the number of the informed young people on negative phenomena today.

During this year educational sessions are conducted with the youth of high school and 9 – year school of Vlora(in Shushice and Novosel Communes) and in Fier district in Levan Commune and Municipality of Roskovec. Concretely, they are carried out with these schools: "Adam Vrapi" Rroskovec Municipality, "Dino Ismaili" Levan Municipality, "Pilot Prifti" Novosel Municipality, "Faslli Fejzo Danaj" (Llakatund village, Shushica commune) and the 9 – year school "Idriz Rustemi" (Risili village, Shushica commune). It has also worked with the youth of the high schools in Vlora Municipality such as: "Ali Demi", "Mustafa Qemal Ataturk", "Halim Xhelo","Pavarsia", "Jani Minga", schools not included in the project.
During this year it became possible the realization of 210 educational sessions with the participation of 1500 youngsters. The topics addressed during these sessions were selected based on the interest of the young people and teachers of schools where the project was implemented. 13 topics were conducted where problems that the Albanian society faces today were treated such as: domestic violence, human trafficking, discrimination and prejudices among the communities, drugs, SIDA and STD etc.

The sensitizing campaigns with the young of high school and 9th year have been very productive and this is shown not only by their interest to get more information by being active participants in educational sessions during the discussions, but also by being offered as volunteers in sensitizing activities carried out outside schools.. The high number of youth who took part in the educational sessions conducted by the specialists of "Vatra" is also an important indicator.

Educational sessions with girls and women of the Roma and Egyptian communities.

Since the project of prevention has many years that is being implemented with the Roma community, Vatra's staff worked and evaluated the situation to enter those areas that had not been worked before without leaving out of priority even the areas with a dense population of Roma people. This gave us the possibility that in our informative campaigns to be included a significant number of people from this community, without being informed before. So besides the areas Novosel, Llakatund, Levan and Roskovec, we established new groups with women and girls in the village Risili and Aliban of Vlora district, very poor areas.

6 groups were established mixed in sex and age, with continued participation from 20 to 25 people for each group.

46 educational sessions are conducted with the participation of 140 members of the Roma and Egyptian communities.

Not only women and girls participated in these sessions but also men from this community. Years ago, men of this community because of their mentality were not involved in the activities organized by the Vatra. During the last two years, this mentality changed due to the ongoing work done by the staff of Vatra, going from house to house, speaking individually with members of Roma and Egyptian community, by showing them the importance of receiving information about the risk that the negative phenomena presents.

13 topics were treated in the conducted educational sessions such as: "The Children's rights, discrimination and prejudice, human trafficking, SIDA and STD, domestic violence etc".

During the discussion of the treated topics by Vatra's staff, many members participating in them have told histories, events, and numerous cases based on their experiences on the involvement of many girls in human trafficking. Likewise in discussing the topic "Children's rights, and the consequences that brings violation of these rights", based on the employment of minors as a form of violation, many members of the Roma community said that: they must live, and work to live, the fact that they are in poor economic conditions obliges them to act in this way.

Educational sessions with children

The Formation of a group with Roma children in Levan Commune, and the realization of the educational sessions with them represent another important achievement of Vatra's work. This activity was not really included in the project, but the staff seeing the interest of children and of their parents took into consideration the realization of different activities with the created group. This group consisted of 20 children aged from 6 to 12 years old.

The main purpose of the implementation of this activity was the withdrawal of these children from the risk of their involvement in trafficking and illegal jobs such as begging, collecting cans,

who are forced to perform them by their parents. 8 educational and entertainment activities were completed. In particular, the work with these children consisted of various educational and motivating games, focusing primarily on elements of Roma culture.

Seminar with the community and the local institutions.

2 seminars were conducted in the community.

In October, a seminar was held in Novosel Commune of Vlora district with theme:

"TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, A NEAR FUTURE, A SAFE JOB."

In this seminar took part: Chiefs of the government and central structures of

Novosel Commune, representatives of Medicine, education, Police, Roma community and youth. The aim of the seminar was the strengthening of the cooperation among the community, local government, school and different NGO-s to promote the further development of tourism, culture, economy. A developed country with a good economy is less vulnerable and as such it prevents the negative phenomena that have affected our society today like: human trafficking, prostitution, domestic violence, begging etc.

Organizing such a meeting with representatives from local government, the school and community, was seen as a necessity to increase the level of awareness on the assets the communes owns, as well as the need to exploit them for the sake of the community.

The conclusions of the seminar:

1. Natural resources in Novosel Commune are varied starting from the coastline 15 km long, the wonderful lagoon of Narta, airport, etc.. Its location near the motorway which serves as a gateway to the city of Vlora, makes its opportunities for development to be even higher.

2. To achieve better results as in the overall development of the life of this commune it is required active participation of the community regardless of ethnic or cultural differences.
3. An innovation for the family tourism in Novosel Commune is expected

to be the development of tourism by the families of the Roma community that will attract the attention because of their different culture and traditions.

4. The school is the institution of the cultivation of values to young people, focusing on models of effective social education.
5. Growth and development of culture means the growth and development of qualitative tourism, increase of the number of employees / self-employed ones, and in direct improvement of the standard of living.

In December of 2008, a seminar with this topic was conducted in Levan Commune:

"DISCRIMINATION IN THE COMMUNITIES WITH DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES A PHENOMENON THAT MUST BE FOUGHT".

For this wide activity **98 people took part such as: the aldermen of the villages of Levan Commune, employees of commune, education, of the Roma community and youth**. The purpose of organizing this workshop was making apparent the phenomenon of "Discrimination", putting in front the Local Government of this commune and the civil society to find a form that would impact on alleviating this problem.

The seminar showed that:

1. Discrimination is a phenomenon that exists in the Levan Commune. But it also manifested by persons with power in the municipality.
2. Although Roma children and others, study in common classes, Roma children drop out because they are discriminated and prejudiced.

4. Informative newsletter

The publication each two months of the monthly informative newsletter "Vatra" is intended to reflect the activities of "Vatra" Center, within the

framework of the different projects that it implements. 3 editions have been published with 1500 copies. This Newsletter is distributed to all the state institutions, public and non-public ones as well as to a large part of the community in the areas where we work.

Trainings with the employees of the local institutions; social workers, teachers, psychologists, representatives of the Roma community.

During this year there have been conducted trainings with social workers, teachers, psychologists and representatives of the Roma community, aldermen of villages, representatives of the communes' council. 5 meetings were conducted with the participation of 63 members. The group specialists of Vatra such as: social workers, psychologist, and the lawyer of the Center realized the trainings to provide its expertise in the field of human trafficking. The aim of these trainings is the giving of wide information on the situation of the "trafficking" phenomenon and the way how to be protected from it, sensitizing the participants on the importance of prevention of this phenomenon. The reason for the selection of this target group by the staff of Vatra was the continuation of the fight against this phenomenon due to the role they play in the community where they live. (e.g a teacher in his work with young people, will be able to address it to the necessary institutions to seek help, if it sees that this young, has this need).

The publication of leaflets

In support of the topics of the educational sessions on and sensitizing activities realized during this year, 22 leaflets were prepared, of which 12 related to the topics of the educational sessions, and 10 others were drafted in relation to the activities conducted by "Vatra" Center respectively for:

- World Day of fight against poverty and hunger which was prepared the leaflet titled: " Albania in War throat to throat with hunger";
- European Day of fight against trafficking in human beings.
- On the 30th of October 2008 it was prepared and distributed the leaflet related to the seminar with the topic "Tourism Development, A Near Future, A Safe Job!".
- International Day of Tolerance; International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women.
- On the 17th of December 2008 it was prepared and distributed the leaflet related to the seminar with the topic: "Discrimination in the communities with different ethnicities, a phenomenon that must fight", realized even in the framework of the seminar of this month.

Used as a powerful sensitizing tool the leaflets have been distributed widely. **1000** leaflet have been distributed for the sensitizing activities carried out with the community, and **4700** leaflets distributed during the educational sessions conducted with the target group of the project implementation areas, in total, there have been distributed **5700** leaflets.

Roundtable

This was the closing activity of the project. Leaders of the local government of the two districts Vlore and Fier, representatives of Roma Associations and other NGOs, as well as representatives of our partners who supported us in this project attended this table. The realization of the indicators taken for each objective, the achieved results and the difficulties encountered during the project were discussed in this table. Also, an overview of the real situation of the phenomena that affect these communities.
The roundtable issued recommendations for every actor inclusive in it; for the composition of politics and action plans that should be taken in order to prevent and combat any negative phenomenon; affecting society and in particular these two communities.

Psychological counseling and assistance

During these years of Vatra's work in the field of prevention of human trafficking, is seen as necessary the providing of the service of the psychologist for the community given the social problems the community faces today.
From year to year a growing interest of the community for assistance and advice of the psychologist of the Center has been noticed, which is noted even in the high number of the beneficiaries that visit the Center to receive this service.
Following the project's prevention activities, the psychologist of the Center has offered her service not only for the Roma community (which is even the target group of the project) but for the whole of it. So this year 32 persons benefited this service with 79 consultations. The shown psychological problems were anxiety, depression,
disorders of concentration, etc.

The psychologist has also organized with the community meetings and counseling in group, where the participants along with the topic addressed by

the psychologist, have spoken openly for the problems that have worried them. 25 consultations and discussions in group have been realized during the year.

At the same time the psychologist, along with providing the service to the community, has even conducted educational sessions with youth of high schools where the project was implemented. The individual counseling has been offered for those people that needed it. In total 11 individual counseling are conducted.

One of the activities of the prevention's staff this year was the conduction of educational sessions with girls in the dormitory at the University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali. Following this, the psychologist of the Center has offered group and individual counseling for this target group. These activities and services were seen necessary to be held, based on our annually studies have that we have made to the phenomenon of internal trafficking. From that analysis we have made to this phenomenon it has resulted that this target group is the most at risk to be involved in this traffic. The fact that girls in the dormitory are out of control and attention of the family, are more exposed to the negative phenomena.
The social themes which were addressed to them by the psychologist and the social group consisted of providing information on human trafficking, the ways of recruitment, causes and consequences, ways of protection etc.

Legal assistance

During this year legal assistance and support is offered by the lawyer of Vatra for all the cases presented by the treated target groups.
The beneficiaries from the Roma and Egyptian community have been from all the areas where the project lies (Vlore, Fier, Roslovec Municipality, Shushice, Novosel and Levan Commune).
The problems this community has had as long as the legal aspect is conserned have been of the civil character, problems regarding divorce and registration and children.

The beneficiaries from the Roma and Egyptian community have been assisted by the lawyer for 56 civil cases in 172 sessions (in a repeated way), from which:

- 13 cases for divorce
- 3 allocations of custody
- 35 cases for child registration
- 1 case for execution order

The lawyer has attended the 56 processes mentioned above from which has been realized the registration of 65 children and the assistance of 11 cases for divorce.

The beneficiaries from the Roma and Egyptian community have received even judicial counseling in group with defined meetings, 2 meetings in month, calculated on average 20 counseling in group.
The legal counseling in group has been organized with the participation of 15-20 beneficiaries, there where this community is located. These counseling have been made in cooperation with the social group of the prevention project which has conducted according to the plan of the project educational sessions with the women of the Roma community. Different topics have been treated such as: "Measures against domestic violence", topics on the Albanian legislation for the protection of women and children, as well as of the violated and at risk women and girls.
In Roma community of Llakatund and Levan it has been mediate and the procedures have strated to make possible the accommodation of two orphan children in the institutions that offer this service.

Cases from the community in general that have profited legal assistance through the lawyer

The beneficiaries that belong to the community in general have been from the Vlora city. In the framewolrk of cooperation with the local institutions

of Vlora have been refferal of cases from the office workers of the Civil State. Similarly, we have also cooperated with other organizations where we have realised mutual refferrals, cases to be assisted from the legal aspect in order yto help tjis target group.
11 beneficiaries have profited legal assistance in 11 civil cases through 40 counseling sessions from which:

- 4 cases of divorce
- 3 cases for child registration (7 registered children)
- 2 cases for the Immediate Order of Protection
- 1 case for refusal from the parental responsibility
- 1 case regarding seniority at work

From these have been completed: 3 cases for divorce, 3 cases for child registration (7 registered children), and 2 Immediate Orders of Protection have been taken of two violated women and 1 case for refusal from the parental responsibility.

Unpredicted activities of the project

Apart from the realization of the planned activities during this year, Vatra's staff has conducted even other unpredicted activities in the project.

The realized activities have been undertaken in the framework of the cooperation with National and International partners.

- In November of 2008, "Vatra" in cooperation with the Network of Women against Domestic Violence organized a one day training with representatives organized a one-day training with representatives from NGO-s, Police, Prosecution and courts of Vlora District, in the center for them being capable for the implementation of the law "Protective measures against domestic violence" and the treatment with social assistance of the violated victim.

- In the framework of the European Day (18 October) Against Human Trafficking, "Vatra" organized an activity in a public place of Vlora city, whose idea was to transmit to the citizens the message that "The more we get informed the better we know how to be protected". This activity was realized not only with the distribution of the hundreds of leaflets; but also with the emergence of a short feature film which drew attention to tens of hundreds of citizens of Vlora, who not only assisted in this activity; but also became collaborative in the distribution of much material information of "Vatra".

- In December the Woman's Center "Aulona" in Vlore, in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health conducted one day training with the beneficiaries and the staff of the shelter with topic:"How to be protected from the sexually transmitted infections". At the end of the activity was also given aid (clothes) for the beneficiaries in the shelter.

- Also there have been realized three open activities with the community with different themes in order to urge the participation of the citizens in the treatment of such issues as employment, environment etc. These activities created a connection bridge among the members of the community and representatives of the local government; how they should cooperate for all the problems that deal with the socio-economic and cultural development of the areas where they live. These activities were conducted in Novosele Commune, Vlora city and Levan Commune of Fier District.

- The realization of two contests with the youth of high schools with the theme: "Together in the fight against AIDS" and "Violence in my life". These activities were not part of the plan.

- The conduction of sensitizing activities in the city streets, through the screening of the film image, the distribution of leaflets, brochures, posters, etc.., in the context of international days. These activities were not part of the working plan.
- In December in the international day against the exploitation of children, was broadcasted in the local media a sensitizing Vatra's staff.

- On the occasion of the International Day "The fight against violence against women" on 25 November was held a conversation in a TV studio with representatives of the field of violence, State Police, psychologist, lawyer, prosecutor and civil society. In this conversation the phenomenon of violence in the district of Vlore and the measures the government has taken to enforce the law "On measures against violence in family relationships." were treated.

- The formation of a group of 20 Roma children in the Municipality Levan, based on the request of the children but also their families and the realization of educational activities and entertainment with them.

THE WORK OF "VATRA" FOR THE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The trafficked victims and those of domestic violence are women and girls who come from the vulnerable strata of the society. One of the main objectives of the project was the work that the staff should have done to sensitize and empower this stratum of the society.

The phenomenon with which we work, therefore, the trafficking in human beings and domestic violence are criminal acts, which generate situations of conflict with acute social problems in the family and society.
The treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of all accommodated women and girls in the shelter have made it possible to avoid and prevent all the problems generated in different areas and communities where the victims come from.
A physically healthy woman, an informed woman for the rights she enjoys, a woman professionally prepared, an employed woman economically independent were the prior duties of the staff in the work with the victims, who made possible that these women and girls with their will for a better future for themselves, with the power, dare and their intellect to know how to fight for their rights so that to have the place that they deserve in the society. The encounter with the unacceptable mentality, with the traffickers and their exploiters, with the discriminating surrounding around them were the challenges they learned to us and with which they will deal when they leave us. Return to the society over 46% of the assisted, morally, economically and professionally reinforced victims, made possible the alleviation of the phenomenon by reducing the number of trafficked victims so that to have even this year a decrease in the number of victims of trafficking; thus impacting directly on alleviating the phenomenon.

VATRA'S EMPOWERMENT

Thanks to the work, the phenomenon it treats, the gained experience and the contribution it has given and continuous to give, Vatra is not an organization without identity. It has grown, strengthened and it has become part of the main institutions of the state and with the international organizations regarding the drafting of the programs and politics that the government takes for the Anti-traffic phenomenon and that of domestic violence.

Also the experience of "Vatra" has been requested by some Western European countries during 2008 such as Greece, Italy, Spain, England etc. All these have come as a result of the qualified staff, compact structure and of a methodology always in development.
"Vatra" has also paid attention to the capacity building of its staff. All the possible resources were exploited for this offered not only by different National NGO-s and international ones nut even from state institutions that operate in this field.
During this year there have been realized trainings even by "Vatra" itself with different themes both for the standards of the social services in the framework of the approval by the Parliament of the law for the social services organized by Vatra with specialists of the Social State Service in Vlora and by the Ministry of Social Affairs in Durres.
In addition, the staff has taken part in different trainings for capacity building held by CRCA, the Center for Gender Alliance, the Network of Women against Domestic Violence, The European Center which organized a training

for the preparation of project proposals for grants in the framework of the program for cross-border cooperation IPA Adriatic where CSDC Vlore, Mjaft Movement, Youth Center in Vlora, the International Organizations IOM, Save the Children, KTK etc, took part. Similarly the staff has taken part even in international trainings organized by NCA Pristine and Oher Macedonia etc.

"Vatra" has strengthened its capacities not only with the participation of the staff in different trainings organized in and out of Albania but even through the motivation of the staff in international conferences and activities. The participation of each member of the staff in these activities has been seen not only as an opportunity of motivation for the person but also as a preparation with the best international experiences. So, only during this year 10 members of the staff represented Vatra in different countries of Europe such as Italy, Spain, Greece, Croatia, France, Sweden, Macedonia, Kosovo etc.

Another practice that Vatra uses in the preparation and training of the staff are also the volunteers who contribute in the strengthening and empowerment of the organization. It's exactly these volunteers that in different projects that "Vatra" realizes have priorities in getting employed in the projects. This has been a very successful practice firstly because the volunteers not only see that as a way of motivation but also as a very important element for Vatra itself. This happens because we recruit staff that has contributed to Vatra, a staff prepared by Vatra.

During this year 3 girls volunteer were employed in the project of prevention from 6 girls that were activated during the year.

Moreover, a good practice of Vatra is the work in group. The use of this important element creates possibilities for the generation of ideas and new initiatives, strengthens the relations of the members of the staff and increases the qualities in different specialties. So, the work in group of the psychologist with the lawyer or of the social worker with the psychologist, or even of the trainer of education has been a fruitful cooperation that "Vatra" has used during its work.

Of course all these have an effect in the strengthening and professionally growth not only of the staff but also of "Vatra" as an organization.

"Vatra" has been promoted by many international organizations, donors but even from the state institutions as a well-equipped organization, with a modern administrative and institutional structure.
"Vatra" functions on the basis of a manual and procedural politics, of the Interior Regulation, of the Board regulation and on the basis of its long-term strategies that are renovated based on the development and change of the situation in the country.

Definitely, a great support are the volunteers in the terrain and community who take active part in important events and campaigns undertaken by Vatra or even in activities for the International Days set by resolute and different convents.
Vatra's staff is very cooperating and has been available to help all the organizations as sisters in other cities so that for them to strengthen and progress.
During this year there have been helped two new organizations in Vlora, 1 in Fier, and the other in Shkoder.
The Norwegian Church Aid that monitored the activities of "Vatra" during November based on what it saw by close decided that for the year 2009 "Vatra" to be the organization that will train all its partners in the region for capacity building of these organizations.

THE COOPERATION WITH ANTI-TRAFFIC THE PARTNERS

"Vatra" is one of the most active organizations in Albania that has a good cooperation with a big number of institutions in the country. This cooperation is contractual and not formal. There are four important state institutions such as the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and many other institutions at local level with which "Vatra" has mutual signed agreements where the implementation of the duties and responsibilities of each part has contributed not only to the strengthening of cooperation among the sides but also to the direct help given to the assisted victims. At local level "Vatra" has a good cooperation with the Communes and Municipalities where the prevention's activities lay, with the Regional Directory of Employment and that of Professional Formation, with the Educational directories etc.
Every month work meeting take place with representatives of the central institutions where we have raised and discussed all the problems that have concerned us by the non-serious commitment for the implementation of the responsibilities that each member that has signed the agreement has.
Thanks to this institutional communication and cooperation, "Vatra" achieved to realize many of the objectives that it had taken during 2008.

The Anti-traffic National Coalition of the Albanian Shelters

The National Coalition of the Albanian Shelters has been created at the end of the year 2007 and is composed of 5 members of the residential centers for the trafficked victims that function in Albania such as:

Vatra Center, Vlore.
Different and Equal, Tirane
Another Vision, Elbasan
The state center of Linze, Tirane.
Life and Hope, Gjirokaster.

This coalition has regularly held the monthly meetings in which problems have been raised and an evaluation of the actual situation on the phenomenon and its development in Albania has been made. A significant contribution is provided by the coalition in the working groups for the drafting of the National Anti-trafficking Strategy 2008-2010; part of whose implementation is each member of the Coalition. In the framework of the coalition, the process of mutual case referrals among the shelters has functioned well.

Another element that will have an impact on the strengthening of cooperation among the members of the coalition in the future was the participation of the shelter representatives in the organized training in Torino, Italy with theme :Study visit for the shelters for the trafficked victims", from World Learning with funds of USAID.

All the beneficiaries from this study visit came with an action plan that will be implemented in the future which consists of mutual activities among the shelters for the improvement of the offered services, mutual lobbing to the Albanian state for financial support etc.

In the framework of the National Coalition of the Albanian Shelters during this year there has been a lot of lobbing to the Central State Institutions, different International Organizations that operate in the country, business organizations etc, for the strengthening of cooperation with the actual partners, the establishment of contacts and cooperation with new partners, financial support from these institutions for the coalition, , the giving of expertise from the members of this coalition to these institutions when this is required from them etc.

During this year the Directors of the Shelters have realized important

meetings with: The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Mr. Anastas Duro, Vice Minister of Interior at the same time even National Anti-traffic Coordinator Mrs. Iva Zajmi, the General Director of the Social State Service Mr. Mihal Naco, the director of the Foundation of the Albanian children "Domenick Scaglione" Mrs. Liri Berisha, the representative of the European Commission (representation in Albania)Mr. Giovanni Serritella, the Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tirana Mrs. Floreta Luli-Faber,etc. In the meetings emphasis was given to the responsibilities that the Albanian state should take in order to support financially the Residential Centers that offer rehabilitation and reintegration services for the victims of trafficking and those of violence and finding other opportunities to collaborate on various social projects for the strata in need, especially in rural areas; areas which are known as the source of negative phenomena. It is worth to stress the fact that the Directors of state institutions and international accepted in principle that in 2009 special programs will be predicted in order to finance them partially either in kind or financially.

In November the American Ambassador in Albania held a reception at the residence of the Embassy with representatives of the main institutions working in the field of human trafficking such as Heads of the Ministry of Interior, the State Police, Attorney's House, and Ministry of Justice etc. Representatives in the reception were even all the members of the National Coalition of the Albanian Shelters. In this reception the Ambassador evaluated the great contribution that the members of KKSAT have given during these years in the fight against human trafficking.

Even the cooperation with international partners during this year has been quite effective. We have conducted joint meetings and activities for gender equality issues, domestic violence and human trafficking. We have conducted exchange of experiences with different delegations that have visited the institutions of "Vatra", such as: The American Embassy, The German Embassy, the delegation of German Parliamentarians, the delegation of prosecutors and lawyers from London, the Deputy Ambassador of the

American Embassy in Albania, etc.
All these have contributed to the real evaluation of the situation, in assessing the work and contribution that has provided "Vatra" in the fight to prevent such phenomena as human trafficking, domestic violence, etc.

The Regional Anti-traffic Committee

Having seen as very important function of this structure in the fight against the phenomenon of human trafficking, "Vatra" has tried a lot and has requested that various institutions members of this committee to be involved actively and assume responsibility for resolving the numerous problems that this phenomenon generates. Unfortunately more than 1 year, the Committee for the district of Vlora, does not work.
However, there have been sent 3 three-monthly reports and information to the General Secretary of Prefecture so that information could be given regarding the phenomenon in the country and the treatment of the violated and trafficked victims assisted in "Vatra" shelter.

Relationships with other organizations and Anti-traffic networks

Like before even for this year "Vatra" has worked for the strengthening of cooperation not only with the existing partners but has also made attempts for the finding of new partners that work in the Anti-traffic field who help in the realization of project activities.
Therefore, from the executive staff of the center there have been made some meetings with International Organizations to see any cooperation opportunity in the future not only for financial support but even for information exchange. One of these meetings was also that with the Director of the organization "Save the Children", where was considered the opportunity of cooperation in continuity in order to observe the work that

"Vatra" has done and is making with the Roma community and that of financing in the future. Moreover, there have been made a series of meetings with representatives of the British Embassy, UNICEF, UNDP, for further cooperation in the Anti-traffic projects.

It is worth emphasizing that during this period the cooperation with the institution of the Social State Service. Specialist of this Directory held a training in Vlora, where important topics were addressed on "Legal and Institutional framework for the protection of the victims of trafficking", and ""The Professional Ethic Code; "Standards of the persons at risk of trafficking" "Concepts and techniques for the management of cases" etc.

THE SUPPORTIVE DONORS OF "VATRA"

One of the main priorities of Vatra's work has been and is to strengthen relations not only with partners who cooperate but also with funding donors. Results always on the increase, the contribution that Vatra has provided and continues to provide in the areas where it operates, have made it a serious organization, with which powerful donors such as USAID, Trust, The Norwegian Church Aid, Kvinna Till Kvinna, American Embassy, OSCE / ODIHR continue the cooperation for years with it.
"Vatra" has always valued the contribution of the donors not only from the financial aspect but also for the support they have given to solving acute social and economic problems, which have required a serious cooperation of the international organizations with the local ones for the preparation of trafficking strategies and action plans, in preparing a contemporary legislation, and social politics at the service of the strata in need.

The American Embassy in Albania

The American Embassy in Albania through the provided grants has supported "Vatra" from 2000 and onwards, not only with projects in the anti-trafficking field but also in terms of gender issues for empowering women and advancing the democratic development of the country.
The Contribution of the U.S. Embassy in contrast to all other donors has consisted in the support that has given "Vatra" in establishing cooperative relations with state institutions in the country, especially with the Ministry of Interior, General prosecution, and with the Ministry Justice.
Sensitive to the phenomenon, its top executives, through its organisms in Albania such as ICTAP and OPDAT have helped and have organized joint

activities, training for capacity building of staff, of state the institutions; stakeholders in anti-trafficking field; in order to fight organized crime, illegal trafficking and human contraband. Also in this context, the American Embassy has supported Head groups consisting of police, justice, prosecution and "Vatra"; who are trained for specific anti-trafficking fields in the United States.

Specialists of "Vatra" are invited by the American Embassy in activities organized at the country level and for other matters related to issues of gender equality, domestic violence; of the participation of women in politics and decision-taking etc.

The assessment of the U.S. Embassy for "Vatra" has been as a result of the contribution and work that its staff has done in all these years; which has impacted directly on alleviating the phenomenon and has brought significant changes in the developments in the country.

The Norwegian Church AID (NCA)

Partner of Vatra since 2004 and one of the donors with high potential, The Norwegian Church Aid during these years has helped not only for the normal development and progression of "Vatra" but it has made a major contribution to the economic empowerment of the victims of human trafficking, through the establishment of micro-businesses with grants for free.

This way of working in the allocation of funds, has increased not only the reputation of the NCA and "Vatra" in the country, but has brought a different way of effective work; that of quick and successful reintegration of victims` life in normal society.

Sensitive to the strata in need and especially the Roma community, NCA has two years that has funded projects of prevention, which have contributed not only in the awareness of this community against negative phenomena but also with the payment of all the taxes that community has had to the state. As a result, it has become possible the registration of 47 unregistered Roma children, in Novosel, Levan and Llakatund.

NCA's assistance has been extended even in the direction of staff capacity building of "Vatra". During this year, the organized trainings by NCA in Regional groups in Ohrid in Macedonia and Pristine empowered "Vatra" in modern project design and preparation, according to the new practices that EC and the EU apply.

A special gratitude and appreciation, "Vatra" dedicates to the Foreign Ministry of Norway, which during all these years through NCA has supported funding "Vatra"; influencing thus easing the social problems that accompany the strata in need in the areas where we work.

CAAHT Program (With Funds of USAID) in Albania

CAAHT is not only a donor organization for Vatra, which from 2005 and onwards supports us with funds of USAID.CAAHT has been operating in Albania for five years in through the program of KVKTNJ, and is identified as one of the most active organizations in the field of human trafficking. The work done by this organization in terms of building and strengthening capacities of NGOs and anti-trafficking State institutions, has made possible the coming of best experiences coordinated with finding ways for cooperation and concrete action; intended to improve work towards the fight against human trafficking.
Under the care of this program the National Coalition of the Albanian Shelters was organized and created, whose members in 2008 gave a major contribution to the working groups for drafting and preparing the anti-trafficking National Strategy 2008-2010.

The annual conferences organized by KVKTNJ have been separate experiences, in connection with coordinating cooperation among all anti-trafficking actors to disseminate information on the best practices and new specific ideas against trafficking and have also contributed to the

establishment of bilateral links among the NGOs working in different areas in the country.
It is true that by KVKTNJ, "Vatra" Center has grown qualitatively and professionally, thus becoming not only an important factor critical to the state institutions in implementing the objectives undertaken within the national anti-trafficking strategies but also an active organization in supporting and protecting the rights and freedoms of the victims of human trafficking.
The continuous meetings, trainings and ideas given by the Head of the program Mrs. Sarah Stephens, have been inseparable part of the cooperation with "Vatra", in terms of preparation and professional training of its leaders for the coherent organization and development of the organization.

KTK (KVINNA TILL KVINNA)

As a stable donor from 2003 and onwards, KTK made possible with its support to provide Vatra the opportunity to realize its strategic long-term objectives. The long experience of this organization in the work with the women, and its extension to other areas in the region has made the partner organizations in Albania, to become promoters of the feminist movement, aimed at strengthening and empowering women as one of the key forces of the society that affects significantly the development, emancipation and democratization of life in the country.
The establishment of the network of the women organizations member of which is also "Vatra" , its extension from north to south, its the growth and strengthening have made possible their voice to influence strongly in getting various initiatives with a political, social and legal character.

The inspirational meetings, the positive exchange of experiences among organizations operating in Europe and the region, the coming of successful women politicians and experts from Sweden, organized annually by KTK have contributed not only to the increase of quality and strengthening of

the organizations of the network but have helped them to cooperate and work to protect the rights of women around the world, minorities, mitigating conflicts for the establishment of peace in the region. Such serious donors, coherent and collaborative reflect the best values that "Vatra" has accumulated in these years, and have made it one of the most active organizations in the country.

The Sigrid Rausing TRUST

Funding since 2003, TRUST in London is one of our more flexible and collaborative donors, with support that it gives us in the direction of the activities implementation and management of funds in accordance with the needs of target groups, with whom we work.

During these years TRUST and "Vatra" together have established a very good cooperation, indicating that support for the organizations that work with difficult phenomena; which prevail in a country with low economic development and acute social problems; not only strengthen them and make them leader in its field but contribute to increasing the capacity of the country, to prevent the phenomenon and improve the current state of strata in need.

To thank and express gratitude for a donor, it is the least that we can do when it is known that the main responsible persons for the resolving and addressing of these phenomena in our country have not been present in these years and have not contributed a single penny for the treatment, support and assistance of the victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Not only "Vatra" but the whole community of the areas where we work would be grateful to TRUST for what it does to support and help the strata in need.

PUBLICATIONS

The publications of Vatra are one of the most important activities of the center, because of the information they contain, in connection to the problems "Vatra" handles over a year.
This published information served not only for use by the state institutions and the community in whole but also by all the international organizations interested in the areas where we work.
For the first time with the funding of the Norwegian Church Aid the website (www.qendravatra.org.al) was launched. In this website we have reflected Vatra' s activity, the national and international partners, the realized project and those under implementation, the supportive donors, the publications of the studies, annual reports, leaflets etc. The web page is dynamic and is renovated frequently.

1. In the framework of the project : "Awareness campaign for the sensitizing of the young people, girls and women of the Roma and Egyptian communities for the risk human trafficking presents and further reintegration of the victims of this traffic", was realized the study**: "Violence in the communities with different ethnicities".** The aim of the study is to evaluate

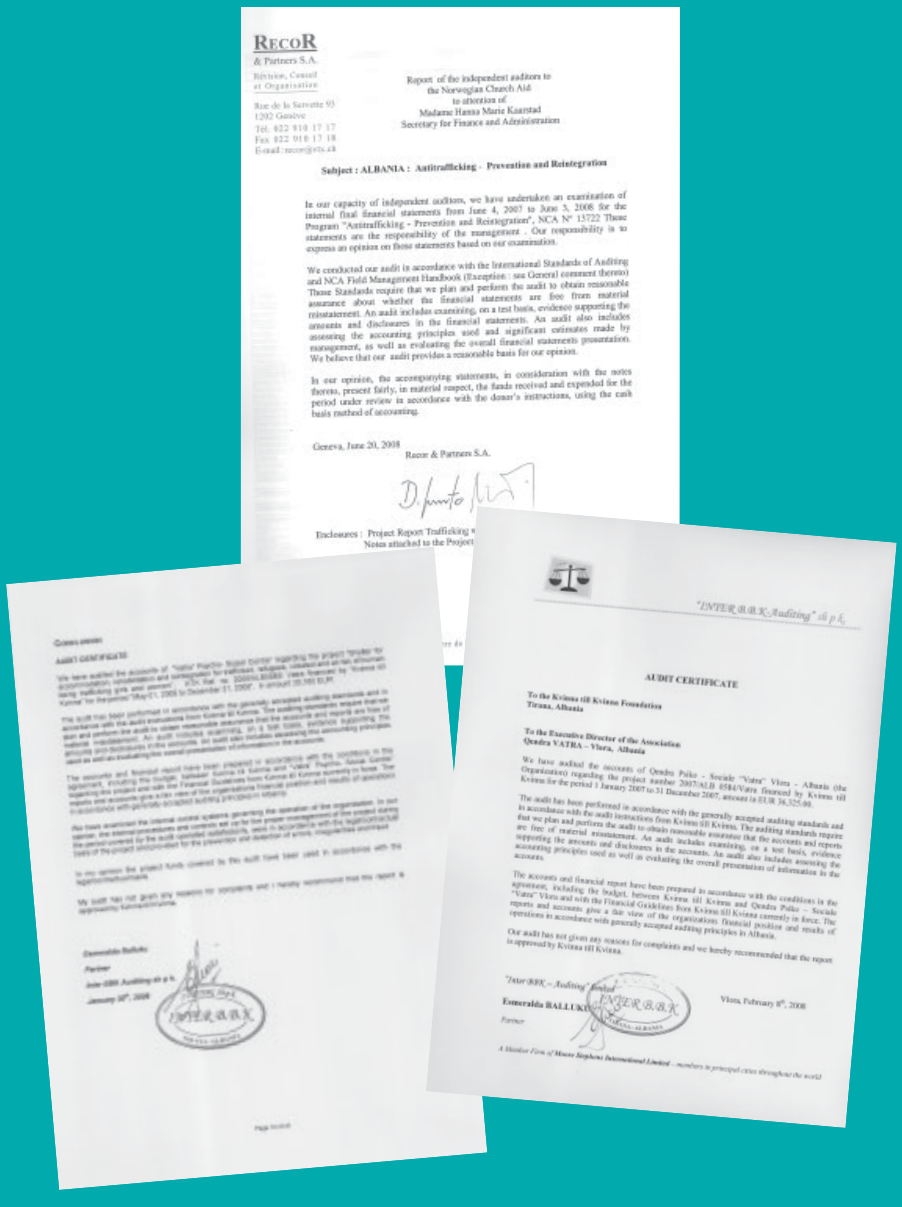
the actual situation of domestic violence in the communities with vulnerable target groups, in some municipalities and communes of Southern Albania. This study aimed at assessing the economic situation, education, family composition, the different forms of domestic violence, knowledge of the legislation for the victims of domestic violence, forms of violence and discrimination that the communities have experienced due to the cultural, linguistic, ethnic diversities etc. Also this study gave us the opportunity to identify the causes and consequences, and to reach right conclusions regarding the most frequent forms of domestic violence, its dimensions in the community and among them, the responsibilities of the state institutions and of the society itself, and the ways that should be followed to prevent it.

2. With the financial support of Kvinna Till Kvinna, the publication of the leaflet **"Violence kills. Don't be quiet, React"** was realized. This leaflet aimed providing and distributing information to on the legislation, on the problem of domestic violence, relevant institutions where women should seek help if you experience violence, and also the services Vatra provides to help them etc.

3. The publication each two months of the monthly informative newsletter "Vatra" is intended to reflect the activities of "Vatra" Center, within the framework of the different projects that it implements. 3 editions have been published with 1500 copies. This Newsletter is distributed to all the state institutions, public and non-public ones as well as to a large part of the community in the areas where we work.

4. One of the important publications of Vatra is also the publication of the annual report for the year 2007.

AUDITION



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Report of the independent auditors to
the Norwegian Church Aid
to attention of
Madame Hanna Marie Kaarstad
Secretary for Finance and Administration

Subject : ALBANIA : Antitrafficking - Prevention and Reintegration

In our capacity of independent auditors, we have undertaken an examination of internal final financial statements from June 4, 2007 to June 3, 2008 for the Program "Antitrafficking - Prevention and Reintegration", NCA N° 13722 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 and NCA Field Management Handbook (Exception : 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 amounts 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, June 20, 2008

Recor & Partners S.A.

Enclosures : Project Report Trafficking
Notes attached to the Project

"INTER.B.B.K. Auditing" sh.p.k.

AUDIT CERTIFICATE

To the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
Tirana, Albania

To the Executive Director of the Association
Qendra VATRA – Vlora, Albania

We have audited the accounts of Qendra Puke - Sociale "Vatra" Vlora - Albania (the Organization) regarding the project number 2007/ALB 0584/Vatra financed by Kvinna till Kvinna for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, amount in EUR 36,525.00.

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

The accounts and financial report have been prepared in accordance with the conditions in the agreement, including the budget, between Kvinna till Kvinna and Qendra Puke – Sociale "Vatra" Vlora and with the Financial Guidelines from Kvinna till Kvinna currently in force. The reports and accounts give a fair view of the organizations financial position and results of operations in accordance with generally accepted auditing principles in Albania.

Our audit has not given any reasons for complaints and we hereby recommended that the report is approved by Kvinna till Kvinna.

"Inter BBK – Auditing" limited

Esmeralda BALLUKU

Vlora, February 8th, 2008

Partner

A Member Firm of Moore Stephens International Limited - members in principal cities throughout the world

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF PSYCHO - SOCIAL CENTER "VATRA" 1 JANUARY 2008 - 31 DECEMBER 2008
PROJECTS AND DONORS OF THE PSYCHO - SOLIAL CENETR "VATRA " FOR THE YEAR 2008

Nr .	Projects	Donors	Period	Remained fund from 2007	Budget	Fund sent during 2008	Expences	Exchange gain/lost	Real difference
1	"Shelter for the accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration for the trafficked, clandestine, violated and at risk women and girls".	NCA Norwegian Church Aid	June 2007 - April 2008	5891.08		26493.3	32376.86	0.00	7.52
2	Awarenness raising campaign to sensitize the youth,the women and the girls in general , on the risk that trafficking in human beings poses and further riintegration	NCA Norwegian Church Aid	September 2007 - February 2008	1292.52		8930	10219	0.00	3.52
3	Strengthening Assistance and protection to Victims of trafficking (Albania)	OSBE / ODIHIR	May 2007 - April 2008	13706.02		2270.64	15972.72	0.00	3.94
4	"Shelter for the accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration for the trafficked, clandestine, violated and at risk women and girls".	CAAHT (with USAID Funds)	May 2007 - March 2008	5.71		24200.23	24203.98	0.00	1.96
5	"Shelter for the accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration for the trafficked, clandestine, violated and at risk women and girls".	Norwegian Church Aid CAAHT (with USAID funds) Kvinna Till Kvinna (Sweden) Sigrid Rausing TRUST, England Interreg Itali (Libera Project) Other Contribution	May 2008 - April 2009		**188517.00**	130470.90	123778.80	-6.23	6698.33
8	Awarenness raising campaign to sensitize the youth,the women and the girls in general , on the risk that trafficking in human beings poses and further riintegration	NCA Norwegian Church Aid	September 2008 - February 2009		**19006.00**	9503	5588.24	4.22	3910.54
10	Improvement of the socio-cultural status for the traffickedwomen and girls, victims of domestic violence	American Embassy in Albania	September 2008 - April 2008		**10638.29**	3529.09	2382.8	1.17	1145.12
11	Combating trafficking in Human beings in Southeast Europe and Balkan Region - Phase IV	IOM	April - December 2008		**1881.00**	1881	1881	0	0
14	Solidarity contribution	Psycho - Social Center " Vatra "	January 2008 - December 2008	7553,35		4018.407	7385.475	-9.044	4195.326
	TOTAL			28448.68	220042.29	211296.567	223788.875	-9.884	15966.256

Note : All the income and expenses in the report are in EUR

The donors have supported us in different currencies. For the annual report these exchange rates have been used 1 EUR = 1.41 USD and 1 EUR = 120 LEK