

OUTLINE

Project LARA: Trafficking in human beings – criminal law reform in South-eastern Europe

Project title:	Trafficking in human beings – criminal law reform in South-eastern Europe (LARA)
Duration:	March 2002 – March 2003
Project area:	South-Eastern Europe
Implementing agency:	Council of Europe (Directorate General of Human Rights (Equality Division) and Directorate General of Legal Affairs (Economic Crime Division))
Funds required:	EURO 250,000
Source of funding:	Voluntary contributions / Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to contribute to the effective criminalisation of trafficking in human beings and the protection of victims' human rights in South-eastern Europe in accordance with Recommendation

No R(2000)11 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime.

The project will approach trafficking in human beings as a violation of human rights and as an issue of organised crime. The Council of Europe will therefore combine the know-how of the Directorate General of Human Rights (Equality Division) and of the Directorate General of Legal Affairs (Economic Crime Division) in the implementation of this project.

The project draws on the conclusions of the Regional Training on Criminal Law Reform (Belgrade (23–24 November 2001) and builds on the experience of the Council of Europe's pilot project on criminal law reform on trafficking in human beings which involved Romania and Moldova and which was carried out from October 2001 to February 2002.

PARTICIPANTS

Representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (incl. Serbia and Kosovo), FRY/Montenegro, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Moldova, Romania and Slovenia. Countries of transit and destination such as Greece, Turkey and Italy may be invited in addition, subject to the availability of funding.

OUTPUTS

1. Implementation plans for criminal law reform on human trafficking will have been drafted or completed based on advice and guidance provided by the project.
2. Drafts for primary legislation and recommendations for secondary legislation to criminalize human trafficking in accordance with European standards and the UN Convention and its Protocol will be available for adoption.
3. Training plans to improve the drafting of legislation and to ensure the application of the anti-trafficking legislation will have been elaborated.

ACTIVITIES

A. Information gathering and dissemination by the Council of Europe Secretariat (March-April 2002) (Output 1)

Core Focal Points Group:	Appointment of focal points at each Ministry of Justice office of codification in each of the SEE countries (or other Ministries)
Pool of Experts:	Three (or more) experts from the CoE, one from UNCICP, one from the ODHIR
Regional Information:	Compilation of National Action Plans and relevant legislation (or draft legislation) of each SEE country
Information Dissemination:	The compiled information will be made available on the website of the Council of Europe and the Stability Pact Task Force and sent out to each focal point at the Ministry of Justice (or other Ministries) and to the national task forces/working groups on legal reform
Country Summary Table:	Preparation of a country summary table, including the current state of legislation and other mechanisms in place in each SEE country. The table will include identified training needs for each aspect of the reform.

B. Expertise "On line" (April – June 2002) (Outputs 1 and Output 2)

Prior to this activity, a network system will have been set up between the international legal experts, experts from the region and the local focal points, whereby the Council of Europe Secretariat will serve as liaison.

International Expert Review:	Five (or more) international experts will review the legislation of one or more countries and make comments and observations for consideration by the respective country
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National Experts (and Focal Points):

Assessment of the legislation of other SEE countries, provision of comments and a list of questions or issues (peer review)

C. Regional Workshop (June 2002) (Outputs 1, 2 and 3)

With the participation of five (or more) international experts and two to three regional experts, including the focal points from the Ministry of Justice (or other Ministries), the workshop will cover:

- Observation sessions in working groups
- Plenary session where comments will be made and the national experts exchange information

The outcome of this work should be threefold:

- Identification of the need for “flying consultancies” and specific legal area
 - Update of the country summary table with respect to the legislative reform
 - Setting of deadlines by each country of the region (including the Ministry of Justice, national task force/working group on legal reform) for the implementation and enforcement of legislation
 - Identification of training needs and finalization of training plans
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D. Flying Consultancies for drafting of legislation and training in drafting legislation (July - December 2002) (Output 1)

Expert teams (national and international) will, on request, be sent to those countries which have identified a need for drafting of legislation in a specific legal area, particularly with regard to secondary legislation.

E. Review Workshop (February - March 2003) (Output 1, 2 and 3)

- The Council of Europe Secretariat will summarise the latest developments in legislative reform and point out new mechanisms
- A second regional seminar will be held, where achievements and assessments of countries in the process of reform will be made, where experts will give their country profiles and indicate actions that need to be taken to strengthen the reform, along with adoption of the training action plans
- Finalisation of the documentation
- Coordination with EU Anti-Trafficking Forum

ESTIMATED COST

Budget requirements are estimated as follows:

Personnel – short and long-term adviser plus support staff	90,000
On-line consultancies	10,000
Regional workshop	35,000
“Flying consultancies”	60,000
(costs for travel, per diem expenses and fees of short-term experts, as well as costs for up to 4 in-country workshops)	
Review workshop	35,000
Other cost/administrative	20,000
Total in EURO	250,000

CONTACTS

For any additional information please contact:

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