



International Labour Organization



With funding by the EU



Project Brief

Elimination of human trafficking from Moldova and Ukraine through labour market based measures

The project will be linked to the ongoing ILO project: "Employment, vocational training opportunities and migration policy measures to prevent and reduce trafficking in women in Albania, Moldova and Ukraine" as well as to current and planned ICMPD activities in the field of migration management. The second phase of this project, funded by the Irish Government, will complement several activities foreseen under the AENEAS project. Activities will be closely coordinated with other relevant organisations, such as IOM and OSCE as well as national government authorities, social partners and civil society organisations.

Key ILO publications

- *ILO: A global alliance against forced labour, Geneva, 2005*
- *ILO: Human trafficking and forced labour exploitation: Guidance for legislation and law enforcement, Geneva, 2005*
- *ILO: Trafficking for forced labour: How to monitor the recruitment of migrant workers, Training manual, Geneva, 2006 (translated into Romanian and Ukrainian)*
- *ILO: Trafficking of migrant workers from Ukraine: Issues of labour and sexual exploitation, ILO Working Paper 39, Geneva, 2005.*
- *ILO: Forced labour outcomes of migration from Moldova: Rapid assessment, ILO Working Paper 38, Geneva, 2005.*

Key ICMPD publications

- *ICMPD: Guidelines for the development and implementation of Comprehensive Anti-trafficking responses, 2006 (available in English, Romanian and Russian)*
- *ICMPD-UNDP: Law Enforcement Manual for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, 2006 (available in English, Romanian and Russian)*
- *ICMPD: Anti-trafficking Training Material for Judges and Prosecutors, 2006*
- *ICMPD: Anti-trafficking Training Manual for Police, Border Guards and Customs Officials, 2006*

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Moldova and Ukraine – source countries for labour migration and human trafficking

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, migration has been an important strategy for men and women of both countries to cover the basic needs of their families. The minimum estimated number of labour migrants from Ukraine is 2 million. For Moldova, the estimated number of labour migrants ranges from 370,000 to 600,000. The overwhelming majority of migrants end up in an irregular employment situation in major destination countries, such as the Russian Federation, Turkey, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany and the United Kingdom. They are employed in labour intensive sectors where informal labour arrangements are widespread, for example construction, agriculture, restaurants and catering, domestic service and in entertainment.

Despite the demand for flexible and cheap labour in destination countries, legal migration channels are limited. There is also a lack of reliable information in Ukraine and Moldova about working conditions abroad. This bottleneck is exploited by smuggling and trafficking networks



that promise lucrative jobs abroad that either do not exist or turn out to be very different in reality. Some unscrupulous employers exploit the vulnerability of irregular migrant workers who are unaware of their rights or are afraid to denounce exploitation. Some of them are trapped in situations of forced labour from which they cannot escape due to threats, violence or other means of coercion. According to ILO estimates, there are at least 200.000 victims of human trafficking in transition countries at any given point in time.

Project regions in Ukraine:

1. Chernivetska oblast
2. Volynska oblast
3. Zakarpatska oblast
4. Khmelnytska oblast
5. Lvivska oblast

The ILO approach

The International Labour Organization

The ILO was founded in 1919 and became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights, such as freedom of association, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work related issues. It provides technical assistance primarily in the fields of labour law and administration, employment policy, industrial relations, working conditions, labour migration, social security, labour statistics as well as occupational safety and health. It promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organisations and provides training and advisory services to those organisations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.

ILO Conventions relevant to the prevention of human trafficking

- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- The Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)
- Migration for Employment Convention (revised), 1949 (No. 97)
- Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

Since its establishment, the ILO has been concerned with the protection of migrant workers' rights. In 1998, with the adoption of the Declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work and its follow-up, the ILO stressed once again the need to protect migrant workers from violations of their basic labour rights. One fundamental principle is the freedom from all forms of forced labour at the workplace. In 2001, the ILO Governing Body established the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) to spearhead ILO activities against forced labour and trafficking. SAP-FL has undertaken new research on the scope of forced labour in the world today, including human trafficking. It provides technical support to governments and social partners on laws and policies that aim at the elimination of forced labour and trafficking. It has also initiated work on prevention and rehabilitation through micro credit schemes, vocational training and improved of public employment services. The ILO stresses the importance of labour market institutions in the prevention and eradication of trafficking as well as the need to build their capacity for more effective action.

SAP-FL collaborates with the International Migration Branch (MIGRANT) in assisting countries in law and policy formulation to promote safe migration. The main activities of the Migration Branch focus on the protection of migrant workers and their rights; promotion of migrant workers' integration in countries of destination and countries of origin; promotion of international consensus on how to manage migration; and enhancing the knowledge base on international migration.



Project regions in Moldova:

1. Chisinau
2. Balti
3. Cahul

The project

The project offers a long-term perspective against trafficking in human beings in Moldova and Ukraine by addressing gaps in the current implementation of National Action Plans against Human Trafficking. It is funded under the European Commission's programme on financial and technical assistance to third countries in the field of migration and asylum (AENEAS). It will be implemented over a period of two years, starting in November 2006. Specific labour market based measures against human trafficking will be implemented, such as enhancing labour market information systems in the Public Employment Service, training of labour inspectors and other government authorities to better monitor private employment agencies, improvement of vocational training curricula and promotion of entrepreneurship among returned trafficked victims, and support for data gathering on irregular migration and trafficking from both Ukraine and Moldova.

Expected results

- Enhanced National Action Plans against human trafficking, improved migration policies, legislation and administrative regulations
- Increased number of prosecutions of trafficking and related offences, including abusive recruitment practices
- Potential migrants have better access to migration-related information and legal channels of migration
- Increased number of trafficking victims given assistance, including opportunities for compensation and socio-economic reintegration
- Trade unions and employers organisation actively involved in policy formulation and support for trafficked victims as well as potential migrants



Project partners

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an inter-governmental organisation based in Vienna with a mandate to promote comprehensive and sustainable migration policies. It functions as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations in the wider European region. ICMPD advises on measures against irregular

Young girls from Moldova employed on a demolition site, 2006.
Podolsky district, Moscow region.
Photographer: Crozet M.



migration and human trafficking as well as on policies regarding border management, visa, return, readmission, and asylum. ICMPD will contribute in expertise with regards to the design and implementation of National Action Plans, training of law enforcement personnel and data gathering. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Ukraine and the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Moldova are committed to support the implementation of the project in all its stages.

Informal meeting place for daily workers in the building sector and recruiters in the suburbs of Moscow, 2006.
Photographer: Crozet, M.