

REPORT OF THE ANTI –TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN 2003-2004.

First phase of anti-trafficking campaign "It Might Happen to You..." started at September 2003 and finished at June 2004.

There were three levels of the campaign:

- Workshops in schools and female groups
- Cooperation with local institutions
- Media campaign

Through workshops in schools and female groups we communicated directly with participants. Their comments during the workshops showed how little they were informed on this subject and how many prejudices they had about trafficking in human beings. The analysis of questionnaires and evaluation lists confirmed this – although 99% of participants had heard about trafficking before the workshop, most answers did not contained elementary knowledge about this subject and even 75% of participants said that they had learned something new during the workshop. The most frequent prejudice was that trafficking was not spread in our area and that trafficking and prostitution were the same. Through the analysis of the answers and discussions with the participants we helped them to dispel these prejudices. We drew their attention to the dangers and spread of this kind of trafficking and protection against it.

Through our cooperation with the local institutions we insisted on the necessity and importance of educational-preventive work with high school pupils and the necessity of participation of the local institutions in our activities. Some institutions showed great understanding and support. Other institutions (e.g. Center for Social Work and Employment Exchange) could not define their role in the campaign although they were ready to cooperate and therefore they showed no initiative. However they gave us a lot of passive support during the campaign. We had the most active cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior- Secretariat in Zrenjanin. This is a very important step forward considering the relationship between the NGO sector and the police in the past. They showed readiness to take part in our future activities (for more information about our cooperation with the local institutions see the text below).

Our media campaign covered the whole region of Middle Banat. The signal of KTV can be caught even in Temisware (Romania) where a lot of Serbs live. Radio Zrenjanin can be heard in Belgrade. These two media have never analyzed how many viewer/listeners they have. "Zrenjanin" is a regional newspaper published in 14000 copies. Since our campaign had continuity, we believe that it had some influence on people in the region of Middle Banat. Our opinion is supported by many invitations received from schools in nearby villages to organize workshops there. A lot of women and girls also called us ready to help in our campaign as volunteers.

Workshops - Through workshops we had direct contact with the target group, which was very important for raising the level of their awareness and understanding of the problem. There were two workshops with each group. The first workshop began with " barometer of knowledge" where our aim was to identify prejudices of a certain group regarding trafficking, victims of trafficking, and traffickers in human beings. Through discussions with all members of the group we draw their attention to the prejudices and helped them to come to correct conclusions. The second workshop consisted of a practical use of acquired knowledge. The participants got the concrete cases and their task was to answer certain questions i.e. to recognize the elements of trafficking as a criminal act.

Media campaign covered the region of Middle Banat. The aim of the campaign was to inform the local community about the problem of trafficking in human beings in order to prevent its further spread. The campaign included three media – newspaper, radio and TV. It had its continuity and integrality in order to give a clear picture of real danger of trafficking today. We talked about this kind of trafficking as a widespread problem in our country and all over the world and discussed about many current issues. Our guests were people who took part in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Cooperation with the institutions

During the preparation of the first phase of the project “It Might Happen to You” we visited some local institutions and talked to some relevant people about the forthcoming project and possibilities for cooperation. One of the levels of this project anticipates exactly the cooperation with local institutions. The problem of sex trafficking is very complex and a NGO needs to cooperate with local institutions in order to carry out its activities on prevention and education. From the beginning we were aware of the very important role of local institutions (every local institution in its sphere of activity) and therefore we tried to establish good cooperation and get their support. The support of the local institutions and local authorities influenced an increasing importance of the campaign and its repercussions in the media. In public opinion a NGO campaign supported by the local authorities, the Ministry of the Interior-National Coordinator for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Being, Secretariat of the Ministry of the Interior, Municipal Public Prosecutor, Center for Social Work and Employment Exchange is considered as a campaign of great importance. All these institutions gave us their approval to mention them as our supporters in the printed material distributed during the campaign. During the first phase of the project their representatives also took part in the work of three round tables and in the media campaign giving interviews and being guests of the local TV and radio stations.

Workshops

1. Workshops in high schools - 95 workshops/1376 participants
2. Workshops with female organizations - 12 workshops/76 participants
3. Workshops with youth organizations - 2 workshops/18 participants

During workshops we discussed about some basic ideas regarding trafficking in humans (what the trafficking in humans is, who are the traffickers and who are the victims, are the trafficking and prostitution the same thing, are the victims responsible for what happened to them?). The most interesting discussion was often the discussion about the responsibility of the victims. Some participants thought the victims were guilty because they were naïve while some of them believed that for the same reason they were not guilty. On the second workshop, where the groups worked on the analysis of real cases, they mainly discussed about the problem of responsibility. It was discussed who was responsible for what had happened to the victim of trafficking, if it was the victim herself or her parents, society or social institutions. It is interesting that the participants were able to recognize “push and pull” factors lying in the roots of trafficking. According to their opinion the strongest factors are poverty, lack of perspective in the country of origin and desire to live better.

Round table discussions

The first - September 17, 2003 – there were 13 participants. The representatives of some institutions also took part in it – Dusan Zlokas (the national coordinator for the fight against trafficking in human beings), Dragan Jon (the chief of the team for the fight against trafficking in human beings in Zrenjanin), the deputy of the Municipal

Public Prosecutor, Olgica Kircanski (the member of the parliament of Serbia and Montenegro and the Gender Focal Point Commission in our municipality) and the representatives of the Center for Social Work and Employment Exchange. We represented the educational-preventive campaign against trafficking in human beings, its program and goals. The subjects of our discussion were the problem of trafficking in human beings, the role of our country in the fight against it, legal regulations and changes in the criminal law. ZEC invited all people present to take part in the campaign and help in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

The second - November 26, 2003 – there were 18 participants. It was held during “sixteen days of the activities against violence on women” (November 25 – December 10). The round table was organized in cooperation with the Gender Focal Point Commission. The following people took part in the discussion: Zorana Sijaski, the adviser in the Provincial Secretariat for Work, Employment and Gender Equality, Olgica Kircanski, the member of the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro, Dragan Jon, the chief of the team for the fight against trafficking in human beings in Zrenjanin, Jelena Djordjevic and Sandra Ljubinkovic from Anti – trafficking Center Belgrade, some representatives of the Center for Social Work, Employment Exchange and Municipal Public Prosecution.

Lectures

On April 9, 2004 we organized a lecture in the Cultural Center. The subject was the fight against trafficking in women. Our guests were Vesna Stanojevic, the coordinator of the “Shelter for Women” and Olivera Simonov, the lawyer who represents victims of trafficking in court. The subjects were the fight against trafficking in women and how to protect its victims. We also represented the history of the “Shelter for Women” and talked about difficulties in its work, especially in finding the funds to finance activities. The coordinator of the “Shelter for Women” talked about female victims of trafficking in human beings and specific kind of help they got. We also discussed about legal matters – criminal proceedings against traffickers in human beings and legal representation of victims of trafficking in these proceedings. There were 40 people present and upon completion of the lecture our guests answered their questions.

Showings of the films “Bought and then Sold” and “Lila 4ever” 18 showings/459 participants

The films were shown to pupils in high schools of agriculture and economics, in the Children’s Home and Public Library. Our guest was Dragan Jon, the chief of the team for the fight against trafficking in human beings in Zrenjanin. He talked about the activities of the national and Zrenjanin team for the fight against trafficking in human beings, the cooperation of the police in border areas and their experience. Then he answered pupils’ questions.

Street actions: there were four street actions during the project. The members and volunteers of ZEC distributed the materials printed by ZEC and the materials in the Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakian and Romas’ language printed by ASTRA.

Media Campaign:

1. **Newspaper-** newspaper articles were published twice a month, totally 18 articles (15 times on one half of the page and 3 times on the whole page). During nine months of our campaign the newspaper informed about all events regarding the campaign. There were various subjects regarding the trafficking in women:
 - «From illegal migrations to trafficking»
 - «Human rights and trafficking» - the UN recommendations, principles

- and directions about human rights and trafficking in women
- «Story of a trafficked women»
- «Stop for trafficking in human beings» - the UN protocol on the prevention of illegal migrations
- «Trafficking as a global problem»
- «Developing countries against trafficking»
- «Trafficking in human beings in our area» - the report on the current situation and the answers on trafficking in humans in south-east Europe of Barbara Liminovska, the consultant of the UNICEF, UNHCR/OEBS - ODHIR
- «Shelter as a safe refuge»
- «Mission of the combating against trafficking»
- «Slaves in the 21st century»

Some articles on trafficking were also published in the Romas' language, Slovakian and Hungarian. Dragan Jon and Dusan Zlokas gave their interviews for the newspaper. The Municipal Public Prosecution prepared an article on criminal acts applicable to the organized trafficking in human beings and various ways of exploitation of people. On December 5, 2003 during the action "sixteen days of activities against violence on women" there was a ZEC leaflet on trafficking in attachment to each copy of "Zrenjanin". Thus we distributed 14,000 leaflets.

2. **Radio-** Every two weeks on Wednesday between 6PM and 7PM Radio Zrenjanin broadcast a program on trafficking in human beings and educational-preventive campaign of ZEC. There were 18 programs and the following people took part:

- S.Vekic and S.Oluski, the representatives of ZEC
- R.Aralica, the coordinator of ZEC
- Olgica Kircanski, the member of the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro and Gender Focal Point Commission in the municipality of Zrenjanin
- Dragan Jon, the chief of the team for the fight against trafficking in human beings
- Dušan Zlokas, the national coordinator for the fight against trafficking in human beings
- Olivera Simonov, the lawyer

Some programs were broadcast in the languages of ethnic minorities (Romanian, Hungarian and the language of the Romas). The program for the Romas was made in cooperation with the Romas' organization "Lodestar".

3. **Television** During nine months of the campaign once a month KTV broadcast reportage on the activities of ZEC or their guests in the studio were people who took part in the campaign and fight against trafficking. The viewers were acquainted with the program and goals of the campaign and they were regularly informed about the activities of the campaign. The subjects of the discussions were current problems regarding trafficking in human beings, activities of the national team for the fight against trafficking in human beings, work of the police in the border areas on the prevention of trafficking, changes of the criminal law, criminal act of trafficking in human beings, legal regulations and importance of prevention and fight against this problem. There were 4 reportage and 5 guests. KTV also broadcast the documentary «Bought and then Sold». The guests in the studio were:

- Dusan Zlokas, the national coordinator for the fight against trafficking in human beings
- Dragan Jon, the chief of the team for the fight against trafficking in human beings

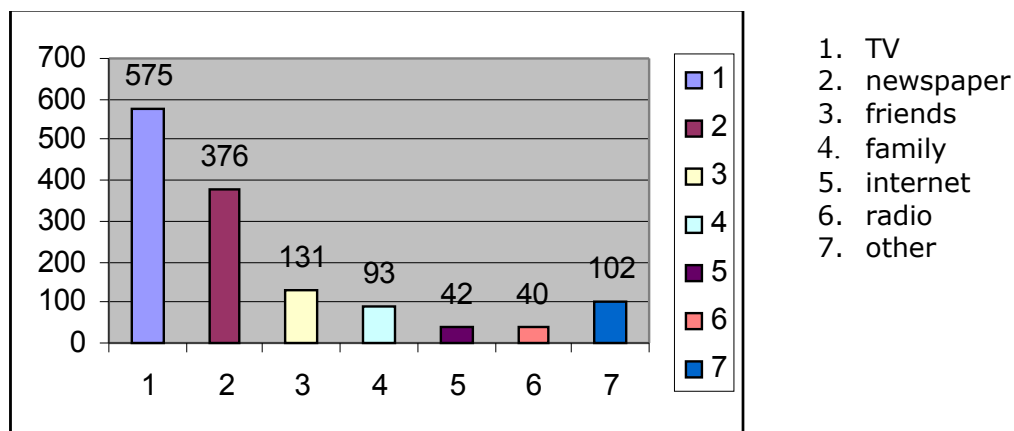
- Olgica Kircanski, the member of the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro and the Gender Focal Point Commission in the municipality of Zrenjanin
- Radoslava Aralica, coordinator of the project "It Might Happen to You..."
- Snezana Oluski, the representative of ZEC

KTV also broadcast reports on our workshops, round table, lecture in the Cultural Center and showing the film "Lila4ever", where our guest was Dragan Jon.

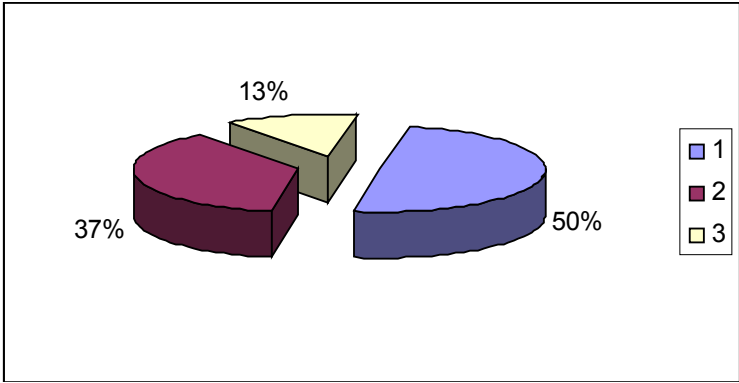
The analysis of the questionnaires and evaluation lists showed how successful our program was. Direct contact with participants was very important to us. There were 109 workshops, 17 showings of the films and 1914 people went through the activities.

On our question "Have you ever heard about trafficking?" 99% of participants gave positive answers. The most of the answers did not contain elementary knowledge about the subject. The reason for this is the source of information. Most of the participants said that their source of information was TV and the information about this matter received from TV is very poor. It is disturbing that only 93 high-school pupils said that their source of information was their family. This proves that parents are not well informed about the trafficking in human beings and they do not talk about it with their children.

1. Which source gave you the most information about trafficking in human beings?



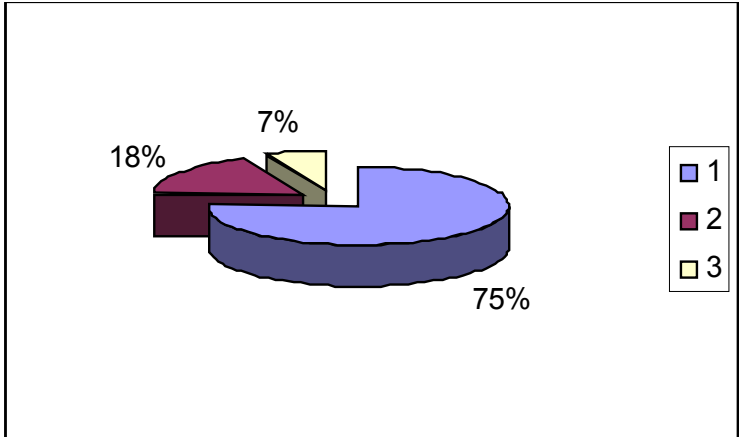
When we asked the participants after the workshop "Are you able now to explain shortly what is trafficking in human beings?" even 50% of participants could defined it. This percent would have been larger if we had included here the participants whose answer was "yes" although they did not give their definition of trafficking in humans.



1. 50% of participants could define trafficking in human beings – the answer contained elementary knowledge
2. 37% could not define it – the answer did not contain elementary knowledge
3. 13% did not try to define it

It is interesting that even 75% participants said that through our workshops they learned something they had not known before, which shows that they had had only a superficial knowledge about the subject. Only 18% of the participants said that they did not learn anything.

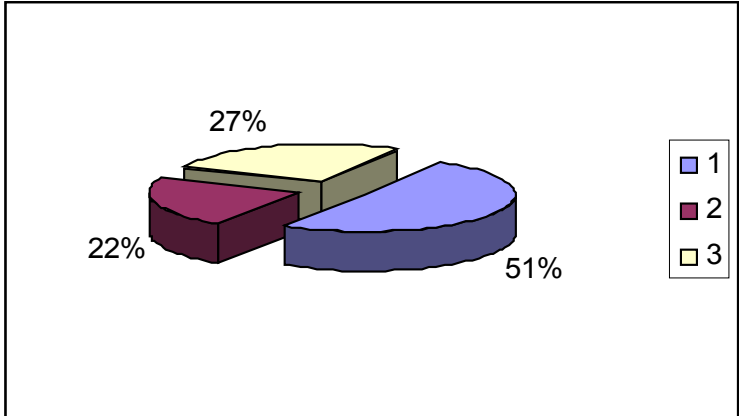
2. What are the new things that you learned during the workshop about trafficking in human beings?



1. 75% of participants learned something new
2. 18% learned nothing
3. 7% did not answer the question

This picture is even more interesting compared with the answers to our next question:

3. What are some new facts you learned about trafficking in humans opposite to your opinion about it before the workshop?



1. 51% of participants said they had had some prejudices about trafficking in human beings and they learned something new
2. 22% did not learn anything opposite to what they had already known about this subject before the workshop
3. 27% did not answer

the question. This is 20% more compared with the percent of those who did not answer the previous question. These are probably the participants without a formed knowledge about trafficking before the workshop. They had nothing to compare with the things they heard about during the workshop.

The preventive-educational campaign will have its second phase and Geneva Global will finance it. In the second phase we will continue and improve our cooperation with the institutions and change the method of work in schools. High-school pupils will educate pupils of the same age about this subject. We believe this method will have more success. We will teach about 130 high school pupils to talk to young people of the same age about trafficking and ways of protection. Thus we will have more pupils with whom we will work directly – 5000 high school pupils who are between 15 and 19 years old. The success of our program will be measured by the analysis of evaluation lists filled by the participants. The results will be compared with the results achieved in the first phase of the campaign in order to see which method of work is more successful.