

MINUTES

*of the meeting of the Task Force on Trafficking in Persons (TF on TIP),
chaired by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combatting TIP (PS of NC CTIP),
State Chancellery*

Session details	
Date	02.10.2024
time	14:45-17.00
Co-Chair	IOM Mission in Moldova, AO "La Strada" International Center
reporter	Permanent Secretariat (SP), IOM Mission in Moldova, Participants
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AGENDA			
No	Time	Topics for discussion	Facilitator
1.	14:45 – 15:00	Registration of participants	
2.	15:00 – 15:10	Opening remarks	Permanent Secretariat IOM Mission in Moldova CI La Strada
3.	15:10 – 15:30	Challenges, risks and solutions in the context of new forms of human trafficking, especially those facilitated by information technology and the transformation of the Republic of Moldova from a country of origin and transit to a country of origin/transit and destination, including in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine	The Ministry Internal Affairs Prosecution generous

4.	15:30 - 15.50	Implementation of European Union Directives in the field of combating human trafficking and related crimes correlated to the risks of the criminal phenomenon	Ministry of Internal Affairs General Prosecutor's Office
5.	15.50 – 16.10	Presentation of the normative framework used by the State Labor Inspectorate in the segment of preventing and combating human trafficking (labor exploitation). Presentation of the problems faced by the State Labor Inspectorate while carrying out inspections of private agencies that facilitate employment of Moldova citizens abroad	State Labor Inspectorate
6.	16.10 – 16.30	Updates from the perspective of the work of the TIP Task Force on: - The emergency plan for managing the refugee crisis - Development of the new 2025-2026 Refugee Crisis Response Plan	The IOM mission in Moldova
7.	16.30 – 16.50	Current challenges in the field of preventing and combating human trafficking. Updates and any other related topics of interest	Ministry of Internal Affairs Ministry of Labor and Social Protection General Prosecutor's Office
8.		Final conclusions. Closing the meeting	Permanent Secretariat
Relevant information and links			
www.antitrafic.gov.md ; Safe migration and anti- trafficking Hotline 0800 77777; portal https://www.migratiesigura.md ; information portal www.newsmaker.md ;			
Participants:			
Lilia Pascal, SP, CS	Olesea Borta, ANOFM	Adrian Pascal, CAP;	
Valeriu Berlinschi , SP; CS	Eugeniu Martin, ICRC Moldova	Liuba Todica , CAP	
Diana Certan-Donoaga , IOM,	Nadejda Frînea , ILO	Andrei Trofimov , IGPF,	
Vitalie Bănzari , SLI	Mariana Soltan , MMPS;	Viorel Nartea , IGPF	
Vitalie Psenicînii , CCTP	Igor Chisca, MMPS	Aliona Bucuci , GPO	

Arianna Ekirici , US Embassy	Tatiana Pîrvu , MFA;	Diana Pasal, AGSSÎ
Victoria Gortolomei , Amasada USA	Vișu Eugeniu, MFA	Silvia Morcan , CI La Strada
Viorica Negrei, MEC	Alexandru Donos, CNFACEM	Vialeta Volkava , ILO
Flavius Onofrei, EUBAM	Ciubuc Cristina, URCH Pro-Family, Căușeni	Ecaterina Berejan , IOM
Ersilia Apreda , IOM	Online participants	Igor Chisca, MMPS
Lucia Merard , We World	Hanan McMillen	Radu Muntean, IGM
Fedele Bogoun , We World	Lily Egilriede / CTHB OSCE	Cristian Postovanu , MJ
	Flavius Onofrei, EUBAM	
	Lily Egelriede , CTHB/OSCE	
	Natalia Nicula, UNODC	
	Oleksandra Lyrylrnko , OSR/CTHB	
	Ruxanda Revenco , INL; US Embassy	
	Sergiu Zubco , IOM	
	Veronica Goinic , UNICEF	
	Sophos Dagand , EU Delegation	
	Veronica Lupu,	

Summary of discussions/proposals and recommendations/action points

Agenda	Discussions	Recommendations/ Actions
2. Opening speech	Lilia Pascal – Head of Directorate of Human Rights and Cooperation with Civil Society, State Chancellery, welcomed the participants, mentioned that the proceedings of the meeting are translated into English and Russian, encouraged the present and online participants to be active and participate in the discussions on the topics of Agenda, which are very important and show priorities in the fields	

	<p>of activity. Discussion topics were collected from institutions, group members. Mrs. Pascal thanked the co-chairs of the group and offered the floor to Mrs. Donoaga and Mrs. Morcan.</p> <p>Diana Donoaga-Certan - Program Coordinator, IOM Mission in Moldova, mentioned that today's meeting is supported by the project financed by the Italian Government, and that the mission of this working group is important and it's necessary to continue its activity. IOM will make a presentation at the end of the event. Mrs. Donoaga encouraged the participants to talk about the activities to be carried out within the EU Anti -Trafficking Campaign. IOM could support some initiatives in this regard.</p> <p>Silvia Morcan - Coordinator, AO CI "La Strada". Mrs. Morcan presented a brief information about the recent activities of CI La Strada. The center manages 2 hotlines: The Women and Girls Helpline and the Safe Migration and Anti-Trafficking Hotline . Statistics: in 4 months, they received over 3,600 calls, 24 of which are alleged cases of trafficking involving 68 people. These are citizens of the Republic of Moldova as well as foreigners. They collaborated with GRETA experts, who were working on the Report on our country for the fourth mission in the context of the implementation of the CoE Convention in the given field. the La Strada expert analyzed 79 files on TIP cases.</p> <p>Lilia Pascal - on activities carried out by the Directorate: The Roadmap summarizing the activities for the implementation of the Recommendations of the US annual TIP Report was approved and is to be updated for implementation. Regarding the activities of the EU Campaign, this activity has been started.</p>	
<p>3 . Challenges, risks and solutions in the context of new forms of human trafficking, especially those facilitated by information technology and the transformation of the Republic of</p>	<p>Vitalie Pșenicinî - Interim Director of CCTP, emphasized 3 types of exploitation</p> <p>Challenges :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surrogate mothers; -Posting pornographic videos and pictures on the Telegram platform (collaboration with the Telegram administrators); - the involvement in criminal activities of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova (mainly men) for the transportation of illegally arrived migrants in the EU (collaboration with EUROPOL). <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - health of potential female victims, who may become victims of TIP for the purpose of surrogacy, 	

	<p>Instruction to help institutions in handling such cases. Namely through Tik Tok and Telegram, people from conflict zones who want to migrate are identified. The people who organize illegal migration are well aware of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova and guide migrants on how to behave at the border. In more than 200 interviews, the migrants answered that they did not pay money for crossing the border, which complicates the investigation processes.</p> <p>Another challenge is the gaps in the law in seizing and confiscating traffickers' assets. An internal note was issued for the territorial Prosecutor Offices where the need to seize assets from criminals was emphasized.</p> <p>Regarding the status of the country of destination and the case mentioned by Mr. Pșenicinîi, there is a question mark. 60 Indians came to the Republic of Moldova for employment at a recently created company. It is necessary to draw attention to subtleties in order not to repeat these situations and to review the granting of migrant status to exclude such cases in the future.</p> <p>Judges mention there is little information on the circumstances regarding the vulnerability of victims and requalify the defendant's situation.</p> <p>Andrei Trofimov – Deputy Head of the Border Police (BP), mentioned that the BP faces the large wave of migrants from Ukraine, who also migrate illegally through the region on the left side of the Dniester, and they request international protection that allows them to stay in Moldova, but it is found that a large number later leave Moldova, being used as a transit towards the EU. Most cases of transit involve citizens from: Turkey, Bangladesh, Iran and India, but recently the intensity in this segment is slightly decreasing. In conclusion, he mentioned that no TIP case was registered in 2024.</p>	
<p>4. Implementation of European Union Directives in the field of combating human trafficking and related crimes in proportion to the risks of the criminal phenomenon</p>	<p>Aliona Bucuci – The TIP department of GPO has this objective. The provisions of the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code mostly correspond to the provisions of the EU Directives. It is necessary to operate some changes in the related legislation. The deadline is III quarter, 2025. GPO has a good collaboration with CI La Strada, as a result of which changes were made to Directive no. 12. GPO welcomes a partnership with IOM and academia in this regard.</p> <p>Cristian Postovanu – Min. Justice, supported what was mentioned by Mrs. Bucuci . It is necessary to thoroughly examine the provisions of the EU legislation in order to transpose them more efficiently and completely into the national legislation.</p>	

<p>Discussions/Debates</p>	<p>Vlad Munteanu - Head of the readmission section, GIM, supported the position of MoJ. Moldova has the deadline for reporting on Directive at the end of 2025 and there is no need to rush.</p> <p>Aliona Bucuci – It should be taken into account that Directive 36 at the European level is also amended and it is good to wait for the final approval of the amendments, but many of the amendments are already in the Moldovan legislation.</p> <p>Vitalii Psenicinii – Forced marriages are mentioned in the Directive, which is not currently found in our legislation.</p>	
<p>5. Presentation of the normative framework used by the State Labor Inspectorate in the segment of preventing and combating human trafficking (labor exploitation). Presentation of the problems faced by the State Labor Inspectorate while carrying out inspections of private agencies that facilitate employment of Moldova citizens abroad</p>	<p>Vitalie Bănzari – The State Labor Inspectorate (SLI) is an administrative authority subordinate to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and exercises state control over compliance with legislative acts and other normative acts in the field of employment, safety and health at the workplace, at institutions and organizations , regardless of type of ownership and legal form of organization, for natural persons who employ workers, as well as authorities of central and local public administration, hereinafter referred to as employers.</p> <p>At the same time, SLI exercises state control over the activity of private agencies and unlicensed intermediaries that carry out the activity related to the abroad employment of citizens of the Republic of Moldova under the conditions provided by Law no. 105/2018 regarding the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance and other normative while accounting for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the relevancy of purpose of the Inspectorate's activity; 2) covering all enterprises liable to the control carried out by the Inspectorate; 3) certain, truthful and accessible information. First of all, the criteria are chosen that grant the possibility of assigning the degree of risk to a specific person/unit based on a value (statistical) information , which can be obtained, whenever necessary, from external sources that do not belong to the activity of the Inspectorate, nor the data provided directly by the unit; 4) what can be ranked according to the weight and intensity of the risk it reflects; 5) what can be related to the multidimensional nature of the sources of risk. It is essential not to overlap and to choose those related to the subject, object and previous reports with the Inspectorate. <p>A challenge for SLI is identifying unlicensed intermediaries. The legal framework regarding state control is regulated by LP 131/2012, respectively the ability of SLI to identify potential TIP victims in accordance with this law is limited, for several reasons.</p>	

<p>Discussions/Debates from the participants</p>	<p>With reference to the problems faced by the State Labor Inspectorate in part related to the control over private agencies for the employment of our citizens abroad, he mentioned that there are no problems, because those who have a license respect the legal framework. The problem is with those unlicensed middlemen who recruit citizens. He also mentioned the problem of social networks through which citizens are recruited through the ads placed there.</p> <p>Aliona Bucuci - SLI not only checks whether they have a license or not, but also the proposed working conditions. In case the agencies present a distorted reality, they must face legal consequences.</p> <p>Vitalie Binzari – sometimes the real situation is different from the allegations in a complaint. If a Moldova national is employed abroad as a Romanian citizen, then the case is investigated by the Romanian authorities, but if they reside in Moldova, the provisions of Law 105/2018 apply.</p> <p>Diana Donoaga - requested to talk about the impact of the April trainings, carried out with the support of the IOM.</p> <p>Vitalie Binzari - He thanked and welcomed this training cycle. The inspectors still do not have the full capacity to understand the concept of a potential victim of TIP or case of TIP, but they collaborate with law enforcement agencies to clarify the situations. He proposed that the inspectors should also be specialized. The training is also very welcomed from the point of view that inspectors pass on this knowledge.</p> <p>Diana Donoaga - proposed to identify new topics for training and IOM will support the initiatives.</p> <p>Vitalie Binzari – presented the problems with procedure of the unannounced inspection. Inspections are initiated based on petitions, notifications.</p> <p>Valeriu Berlinschi – regarding the mentioned Campaign, he repeatedly informed that the process has been launched and a request has already been sent to the institutions in this regard. The recommended period is October 14-20, but each institution can extend the term.</p>	
<p>6. Updates from the perspective of the work of the TIP Task Force on: - <i>The emergency plan for</i></p>	<p>Ersilia Apreda – IOM, presented its position and mission. In the drafting of the draft Emergency Plan (3 months), the scenario was discussed with the MOI specialists about the flow of migrants, risks and other challenges, previous statistical data, the solution of which was provided in the draft Emergency Plan. Various previous and possible future scenarios were taken into consideration. This document will be consulted with all actors in the field and will be promoted for approval. It is very important to prioritize the actions and identify the necessary resources. It is expected that donors will</p>	

<p><i>managing the refugee crisis</i> - <i>Development of the new 2025-2026 Refugee Crisis Response Plan</i></p>	<p>review the priorities and support the implementation. The monitoring of the implementation of this plan will be carried out by the PS.</p> <p>Project background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An emergency plan sets out the initial response strategy and operational plan to meet critical humanitarian needs during the first three to four weeks of an emergency. - Process within the overall framework of the Refugee Coordination Model, with a close partnership between UN agencies, local and national NGOs and relevant line ministries. - During the planning process, specific preparation actions or issues requiring follow-up should be identified and recorded. - An emergency plan should also include the identification of the actors responsible for each action and the potential resources required, including budgetary and human resources. <p><i>The presentation is attached (Annex)</i></p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed activities will be distributed to all members for: - Confirmation of the relevance of the proposed actions - Completion/modification of necessary activities that are missing from the current plan - Confirmation of availability to cover and support the implementation of the proposed actions - Information on the availability of the budget and/or human resources. 	
<p>7. Current challenges in the field of preventing and combating human trafficking. Updates and any other related topics of interest</p> <p>Discussions/Debates</p>	<p>Mariana Soltan – MLSP, on September 4, the CC meeting of the NRMV took place. At the beginning of April, a cycle of training on the assistance and protection of crime victims was started, in which more than 400 specialists from the social protection field participated, there were very intense activities, including on multidisciplinary platforms (EMT).</p> <p>Challenges: Insufficient shelters, especially for male victims, and in this regard a request was sent to the authorities about available places.</p> <p>The Căușeni center is having difficulties with the medical assistance of the victims placed in the center (lack of medical insurance policy). The trainings are necessary, even if 4 specialists from the center participated in the training cycle mentioned above.</p> <p>Diana Donoagă - The IOM can exceptionally procure insurance policies for victims of TIP. IOM has resources to support victims of trafficking.</p>	

	<p>Liuba Todica – social worker, CAP, within the CAP there are resources, but upon reintegration these challenges appear. Risks of repeated trafficking exists. The problem is also in the provision of social/temporary housing.</p> <p>Diana Donoaga – It is important that the victims reach the social protection system and solutions can be identified.</p> <p>Igor Chișcă - Head of Directorate, MLSP, proposed to address 3 important topics in child assistance and protection. He requested the support of IOM and other partners, referring to statistical data of the year 2024 (40 cases of crime victims, of which there are 0 child trafficking victims). Another aspect would be refugee children (3,200 children originally from Ukraine, who benefit from social assistance), over 90 percent of them are in Moldova with a legal representative. He mentioned cooperation with border institutions and informing guardianship bodies about the appearance of such children, and the Law 140/2014 is applied. According to the RESTART reform in the field of child protection, 150 specialists were hired, who are seconded at the level of the town halls, and by the end of the year it is desired to hire up to 200 specialists. These specialists work side by side with the community social worker, but are focused on child protection. It is very necessary to invest in these specialists through training, including the prevention of TIP and TC in order to know how they should act in such situations. He requested support in this regard from development partners. At the ATAS level, there are 10 more specialists who also require training. Another aspect is the identification of unaccompanied children on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. They are in the process of bilateral negotiations, in matters of protection and return of the child to the country of origin, with Romania and Ukraine, and in this sense he requested the support of sensitization of the partners in these countries to operationalize these processes. He emphasized once again the importance of these agreements in terms of child protection. And another aspect would be the strengthening of the specialists from the Child Hotline</p> <p>Diana Donoagă – What would be the contribution of the partners?</p> <p>Igor Chișcă – Support in the negotiation process.</p> <p>Eaterina Berejan - IOM Consultant, mentioned the lack of coordination between institutions in the field of TIP and the referral of victims to social services (70 victims - CCTP and 4 victims - CAP), also CCTP reports 14 or 18 child victims of TC and MLSP zero victims of TC (in the same period).</p> <p>Igor Chișcă – The problem is old, it is hoped that the Information System could harmonize the statistical data. The legal framework stipulates the need to report cases, within 24 hours, to the guardianship bodies. He gave an example from CAP.</p>	
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	<p>Ecaterina Berejan - BARNAHUS Center in Balti assisted victims of TC? Semester information is not sent to the MMPS Profile Directorate? He asked if the CCTP refer information to guardianship bodies about TC cases?</p> <p>Vitalii Pșenicinii - In recent years these collaborations and references are not really realized. As well as the legal provisions on compensating victims from the state budget.</p> <p>Igor Chișcă - Considers that a solution would be EMT training, which would bring clarity to specialists about the implementation of the NRMV and proposed EMT training not just once, but continuous training with a certain periodicity.</p> <p>Ecaterina Berejan - She informed about the initiative to train community mediators and requested the involvement of the Directorate's specialist to come up with a presentation during the trainings on the theme "Protection of children's rights".</p> <p>Diana Donoaga – She mentioned about the trainings planned within the MNRV and it may be useful to invite child protection specialists as well.</p> <p>VERONA – It is important to invest in the training of SLI inspectors in identifying potential TIP victims.</p>	
<p>8. Final conclusions. Closing the meeting</p>	<p>Valeriu Berlinschi - It is very important to discuss the needs in the field on this platform and to identify the best solutions. At SLI, the training situation has improved with the hope of even better developments.</p> <p>He thanked the participants and closed the meeting.</p>	