

# BALKANS ACT NOW!

## Balkans ACT (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now!

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### Project objectives

To contribute to democratisation and EU integration processes in the Western Balkans through improving civil activism environment, capacity, commitment and influence of civil society networks in debate on human rights and the rule of law related to the issue of organized crime, specifically human trafficking

To enhance capacity of CSOs independent and objective analysis and monitoring; legitimacy and accountability; influence over policy in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYR Macedonia, in efforts to contribute to combating of human trafficking and aligning justice sector policies with standards, norms and values of the EU

### Project activities

1. Completion of detailed situation analysis in all targeted countries and it informs finalized Partnership Strategy
2. Creation, endorsement and operationalization of the regional CSO Declaration on combating human trafficking
3. CSO trainings in high level advocacy, analysis and justice sector monitoring
4. Implementation of regional conference aimed at transferring EU practices in prosecution of traffickers
5. Targeted national and regional advocacy campaigns implementation
6. Development of CSO monitoring mechanism

### Results expected

- › CSOs and justice sectors in targeted Western Balkans countries improve their partnership ties and joint work
- › Western Balkans CSOs strengthened in high level analysis, advocacy and monitoring; in giving voice to citizens; accountability and working together
- › Targeted policies aligned with EU values and standards, and advocacy campaigns add value to the operation of justice sectors
- › The overarching CSO regional strategy operationalized



### Main activities

The key broad activities to be implemented within the strategy are:

- Creation, endorsement and operationalization of the regional CSO Declaration on combating human trafficking.
- CSO trainings in high-level advocacy, analysis and justice sector monitoring.
- Implementation of regional conference aimed at transferring EU practices in prosecution of traffickers
- Targeted national and regional advocacy and policy building campaigns implementation
- Development of CSO monitoring mechanism

The participatory nature of the action design has ensured that its **positive impact** is maximised and brings positive outcomes on various levels including technical, economic, social and policy ones.

**TECHNICAL** – On a technical level this translates into positive use of technology and via it improved reach for traditionally uninterested audiences. An example include the regional advocacy campaign that will use smart phone technology/apps to test resilience and raise awareness among 10-20,000 people on dangers of trafficking.

**ECONOMIC** – The proposed action's major impact on this level is that by combating organized crime and strengthening the justice sector (specifically the judiciary), the overall level of profits from the organized criminal proceedings will be lowered and the response of the systems in criminal cases will strengthen. As the action aims towards strengthening of the rule of law and democratisation, it will indirectly contribute to strengthening market economies, free trade and access to finance throughout the Balkans.



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**SOCIAL** – Social level benefit of the action is multi-fold and will have positive impact on both regional and national levels. By improving legislative framework and procedures, we are improving the attitude of Western Balkans societies towards victims. Strengthening civil society sectors and civil activism will lead to more open and democratic societies that are accountable to its citizens and function in a transparent manner. Awareness-raising campaigns will lead towards better informed and responsive general public that is confident to ask questions and hold to account. Importantly, by insisting on necessity of regional co-operation, inhabitants of targeted countries are likely to understand the importance of good connections and overcoming demons of the past, and hence become better citizens of their home countries. The project's campaigns will target 10-20,000 people. As a region, the Balkans will benefit from improved links amongst civil society actors and public sector professionals, all leading towards improved neighborly connections, stable and peaceful region. Stronger mutual links, effective co-operation, exchange of experience and knowledge is likely to bring better responses to organized crime and trafficking in human beings. After all, cross-border crime requires a unified response from countries.

**POLICY** – Adjustment of policies to respond to EU standards, norm and values will bring improved frameworks that are person focused and respectful of international and national guaranteed rights. Positive impact on national policies will lead towards effective criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings, thus ending current high levels of impunity for traffickers in the targeted countries. At the same time it will ensure security and justice for victims. Improvements in the justice sector is likely to have positive spill-over effect on other parts of the system and promote EU *acquis* harmonization as the best way forward towards improvements.

It is hoped that a virtuous cycle will be created whereby improvements in civil activism environment and strengthened regional co-operation will lead to a more peaceful, tolerant and democratic Balkans. This, in turn, will help bring about an environment where rights and individuality of all are respected.

## Short description of the partners



### **ASTRA-Anti trafficking action**

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ASTRA is a non-governmental organization dedicated to eradication of all forms of trafficking in human beings, especially in women and children, through a comprehensive approach to the problem, with the aim of eliminating this specific type of violence and affirming a society free of exploitation, violence, discrimination, economic and social inequalities. ASTRA's vision is to be a leader in a comprehensive solution of the problem of trafficking in human beings and of other forms of violence, towards their eradication in South East Europe.

ASTRA Values are respecting human rights in accordance with international standards, tolerance and appreciation of differences, working towards the highest standards, dedication and commitment. ASTRA carries out its activities through four programs: Prevention and Education Program, SOS Hotline and Direct Victim Assistance, Networking Program Research and Reports.

- › Improvement of mechanisms of cooperation between NGOs and institutions at the local level for more adequate victim assistance, EU Commission Budget line 19.04.03. 17/03/2007. – 17/09/ 2008.
- › Partnership Action Against Trafficking (PAAT) in South Eastern Europe (SEE), European Commission IPA 2008 Programme – Civil Society Facility: Support to Partnership Actions, “Fight against Corruption, Organised Crime and Trafficking, 01/01/2010.-30/06/2011.
- › Human Trafficking Watchdogs In the Republic of Serbia, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR),15/12/2010.- 15/06/2011.
- › Stop Trafficking Of People! (STOP!), Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia, Strengthening Serbia-EU Civil Society Dialogue, 19/06/2010.- 19/06/2011.
- › Make It Work – fighting exploitation and trafficking of workers, Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia, Support to Civil Society, 01/07/2011.-30/06/2012.
- › Not for Sale!-Building towards consensus on combating human trafficking in Serbia, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), 01/05/2012– 31/03/2013



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### **Partnership for Social Development - PSD**

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The vision of the Partnership for Social Development is a modern society in which new technologies; the democratic system, laws and public policies fulfil their fundamental purpose of exercising civil rights, freedoms and equal opportunities, and enable continuous daily progress of the community we live in. Partnership for Social Development is a non-profit and non-governmental civil society organization which initiates, develops and maintains democratic processes of building an active civic community, uncompromisingly applying the principles of protection of public interest, equity, ethics, nonviolence and integrity in the conduct of all stakeholders of social processes. Using and developing modern technological solutions and methods, Partnership for Social Development directly assists the citizens in protection of human rights, conducts researches, monitors the impact of public policies, informs, educates and motivates the public, and advocates for continuous positive social change.

PSD is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit civil society organisation established in 1999 in Zagreb in the Republic of Croatia. PSD participates in building and development of democratic society through protection of and advocating for the principles of equality, ethics, non-violence, transparency and social accountability in actions and behaviour of all participants in social processes.

PSD has been continuously active in the field of policy research since 2001 and as such has become an institution of support and promotion of democratic values, and an active participant in decision making processes at local, national and international levels thus affecting public policies in the field of social development and fight against corruption, human rights protection, organized crime and trafficking in humans. Fields of operation: Government and civil sector (public sector financial management; legal and judicial development; government administration; strengthening civil society; elections; human rights; free flow of information; conflict prevention and resolution, peace and security; civilian peace-building; conflict prevention and resolution; post-conflict peace-building (UN); Social infrastructure and service (social/welfare services); Support to NGO (support to local and regional NGOs).



### **Otvorena Porta/Open Gate-La strada**

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Open Gate-La strada is an association of citizens registered in September 2000 as a non-political, non-governmental, and non-profit organization. Open Gate is working on prevention, care and direct support to victims and potential victims of trafficking. There are 15 employees in Open Gate from different professional backgrounds profiles that contribute to better implementation of activities in order to fulfil its mission.

Open Gate is a member of The International La Strada Association since 2001. The overall aim of LSI is to prevent trafficking in human beings in Europe, in particular trafficking of women, and to protect the rights of trafficked persons.

La Strada's philosophy, guiding its anti-trafficking work and its provision of services, is based on a human rights approach, demanding equal human rights for all people. The mission of La strada is to improve the position of women and to promote their universal rights, including the right to choose to emigrate and work abroad and to be protected from violence and abuse.



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### **The International Forum of Solidarity Bosnia and Herzegovina - Emmaus**

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### **International Forum Of Solidarity IFS-EMMAUS**

IFS-EMMAUS took part in the drafting of all State Action Plans, including the one prepared by the international community in the period prior to 2003, when anti-trafficking actions were led by international organizations and NGOs, as well as the latest draft of Bosnia and Herzegovina Human Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2016.

IFS has been involved in anti-trafficking initiatives since the emergence of this problem in BiH in 1999, and has been one of the core partners to the BiH government in its activities on assistance to VoTs, combating and prevention of trafficking, as well as capacity building, education and awareness raising.

To date, IFS-EMMAUS has provided first hand assistance and shelter to over 235 trafficked women and girls, of whom 199 foreign and 36 BiH national victims. Of the total number of assisted VoTs, 31 have been children below 18 years of age, of whom 8 foreigners and 23 BiH nationals.

### **Association ALC - Accompagnement, Lieux d'Accueil, Carrefour éducatif et social**

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ALC is a non-governmental organisation created in Nice (France) in 1913, which provides support to vulnerable people, especially women, children adolescents, migrants, asylum seekers and trafficked persons.

ALC consists of six institutions: maternal centre, teenagers sector, a centre of accommodation for families and single persons, a centre hosting asylum seekers and migrants, a service comprising different means for emergency housing and a service providing assistance for people engaged in prostitution and the victims of human trafficking.

Since 2001 ALC coordinates the French National network for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking (Network Ac.Sé). The Ac.Sé network aims at protecting and assisting victims of trafficking who are in danger locally. It provides a global assistance and a safe sheltering in different cities far away the place of exploitation of the trafficked persons, and proposes also assistance for the voluntary return to the countries of origin.

ALC manages a national hotline for professionals and proposes social, juridical, administrative counselling for professionals in contact with trafficked persons. In this framework the coordination is at the origin of publication and dissemination of guidelines for professionals in contact with victims of trafficking providing specific information on the assistance of the target group.

ALC is member of ENPATES, the European NGOs Platform Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery. This project is initiated by On the Road (Italy), La Strada International, Anti-Slavery International (UK), ALC (France), ACCEM (Spain), ADPARE (Romania), LEFOE (Austria), KOK (Germany), and PAG-ASA (Belgium) and involves in the Platform other NGOs from EU and non-EU European countries.

ALC collaborated with La Strada International and different offices of La Strada Network. ALC collaborates, within different projects, with IOM offices.



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Since one year, ALC is invited as an expert in different regional conferences and training organized by the Regional Councillor in South-East Europe on trafficking (Permanent representative for France in Vienna): in June 2011 ALC participated in a training on identification of victims in Bosnia, and in October 2011 in a conference on trafficking in Zagreb.



NETHERLANDS HELSINKI COMMITTEE

### **Netherlands Helsinki Committee**

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The Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that aims to promote the rule of law and full compliance with international human right standards, in particular within the societies of OSCE member States. The NHC seeks to reinforce and support the activities of governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Netherlands Helsinki Committee was founded in 1987. The NHC finds its roots in the historic conclusion of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), signed in Helsinki in 1975 by 35 nations of the two Cold War blocs, as the process of *détente* gradually appeased relations between East and West. Inspired by Principle VII of the Helsinki Act, by which the signatory States pledged to respect international Human Rights commitments, a number of courageous dissidents and intellectuals founded the Moscow Helsinki Group in 1976, which played a crucial role in holding the USSR to its Human Rights obligations. Citizens outside the Soviet Union followed this example and set up similar watchdog organisations, based on the principles of the Helsinki Act, in numerous signatory States.

The NHC focuses its activity around the work of the OSCE, the follow-up organisation of the 1975 Helsinki conference. The OSCE has developed an impressive array of commitments and activities on conflict prevention and the promotion of Human Rights, the rule of law and democratic values, in an area covering all of North America, Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The NHC is active from "Vancouver to Vladivostok", with a strong focus on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The NHC aims to develop both short- and long-term projects with a view to strengthen legal protections and improve public policies aimed at vulnerable or disadvantaged groups such as women, immigrants, economically marginalised people, convicts, ethnic minorities and human rights activists.

In addition, the NHC actively engages in coalition-building to push for a more forceful implementation of the human dimension commitments of the OSCE.

Besides its traditional focus on the OSCE, the NHC works towards improving the implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, which covers almost all countries in the OSCE region.

It also works to promote a higher standard of Human Rights protection by the European Union in both its internal and external policies.

In addition to organising various international projects in partnership with governments and civil society partners, the NHC also publishes *Security and Human Rights*, a quarterly academic journal formerly known as the *Helsinki Monitor*, and maintains on this website a news section devoted to OSCE-related information and analysis.



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**Comité Contre L'Esclavage Moderne -CCEM  
(Committee against moderne slavery)**

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The French based anti-slavery organization is the Committee Against Modern Slavery. This Paris based organization is committed to ending domestic bondage in France and in areas from which the victims come from. This organization utilizes outreach to the French community in educating the country on modern forms of human rights abuses which occur.

Lawyers, social workers, students and those interested in their efforts assist this organization.

Created in 1994, the Committee Against Modern Slavery fights all kinds all kinds of slavery and servitude and quickly became the leading expert in caring for victims of human trafficking for labor and domestic labor in particular. The association also cares for victims in the building, restaurant, craft and agricultural sectors similar to slave-like conditions, which may occur in domestic labor.

The CCEM's mission centers on the legal and administrative accompaniment of victims in the proceedings they may or may not wish to bring against their employers. In addition to the legal accompaniment, the association also has many tools in place to respond to victims' socio-educational and psychological needs.

Since its foundation the association has followed hundreds of legal procedures giving it a profound understanding of the obstacles posed by current legislation and case law concerning the suppression of trafficking and reparation of consecutive damages. With this exercise, the CMTC acts as an advocate with governments, including the creation of police and judicial personnel who specialize in treating cases of trafficking for labor exploitation.

Advocacy constitutes the second part of CCEM's activity to the extent that its expertise in domestic slavery allows it to suggest changes in the law to deputies and senators or to participate in associative work groups both in France and abroad.

CCEM is leader of a Social European Fund Project on "Professional insertion of victims of Human trafficking and a partner on a DAPHNE project called "Rap.Vite".

**Associates:**

1. Association of Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Criminal Policy Research Center – CRPC, Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Ministry of Security/Department of Anti-trafficking (State Coordinator)
4. Women's Association Vukovar, Croatia
5. Women's Room – Center for sexual rights, Croatia
6. NGO Dawn, Croatia
7. Ministry of Justice, France
8. Association for human rights protection of Roma - Shtip / AHRPR, FYR Macedonia
9. Academy for Training Judges and Public Prosecutors of Macedonia
10. Human Rights Committee (HRC) Vranje, Serbia
11. NGO "The World of Words", Serbia
12. Judiciary academy of Serbia (JAS)
13. Coalition All for fair trials, FYR Macedonia



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