



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press release

Border Guards to be Trained in Identification of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

Chisinau, 2008 – The International Organization for Migration, Mission in Moldova (IOM Moldova) is currently implementing “Training for Border Guards from Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine” project, primarily aiming at enhancing transnational border guards cooperation in the field of identification and referral for assistance victims and potential victims of trafficking. Secondly, the project aims at incorporating border authorities into the National and Transnational Referral Systems as another professional referral actor, as well as raising awareness of the issues related to irregular migration and trafficking.

The project will be unfolded following a three-level scheme:

1. An Introductory Meeting for the high level officials from the border authorities of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, and also the chiefs of border crossing points. The organization of this event is planned for **September 18-19, 2008** in Stejăriș hotel, 20km from Chisinau.
2. Operational level trainings organized on-site for operational border guards officers in 8 major border crossing points in Moldova involving border guards from the both sides (3 on Romanian border, 2 on the North-Ukrainian border, 2 on Transnistrian segment (involving only Moldovan police and Ukrainian border guards), plus one on the East-Ukrainian border. These trainings will take place in September-October 2008.
3. Concluding seminar for high level officials from border authorities and police on border to evaluate the results of the project and to validate recommendations on improving identification of victims and potential victims of trafficking at the border.

This initiative is based upon positive experience of previous trainings for members of border guards, customs, and police services in the North and South of the country implemented by IOM Moldova and La Strada Moldova in cooperation with EUBAM in October–November 2007.

Taking into account the changing nature of the trafficking phenomenon, the role of border guards in combating this phenomenon has significantly increased. The border crossing points are the last but not the least line for identification of victims thus, a new series of capacity building trainings on transnational cooperation of border guards in the field of combating trafficking represents a major response to the new trends. Moreover, due to a recurrent lack of cooperation by victims of trafficking with law enforcement agencies, another aspect of the training sessions aims to clarify the reasons for this and to teach a number of interview techniques which focus on the humane treatment of the interviewee.



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație

The regional project "Training for Border Guards from Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine" was launched in March 2008. It is a part of the 2008 regional component of the Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the period 2000–2007 IOM Moldova assisted a total number of 2285 victims of trafficking and had more than 900 prevention cases. In the first six months of 2008 there have been registered 85 new cases of trafficking.

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