

# STRENGTHENING LAWYERS LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AND COOPERATION WITH PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES, TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING RIGHTS IN THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

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**Presentation title: The role of the project and its results for enhancing cooperation between civil society and institutions for better protection of victims of trafficking in Bulgaria**

**Speaker: Genoveva Tisheva/Organisation: BGRF**

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## The role of the project and its results for enhancing cooperation between civil society and institutions for better protection of victims of trafficking in Bulgaria

- Main activities marked by cooperation:
  - Two training sessions for Romanian and Bulgarian lawyers, prosecutors and judges were organized in Bucharest Romania in May and October 2017– BGRF established relations with respective institutions and conducted the selection
  - Twelve specialists were trained in the first and 7 experts in the second training and cooperation with them was established
  - Thirty Bulgarian legal professionals were trained during the training sessions in Bulgaria and relations and cooperation was established with them

- During the implementation of the project and through the session in Bulgaria close cooperation was established with the National Commission for CTHB
- Cooperation with relevant NGOs, like the members of the Alliance for Protection from GBV was developed also on these issues
- Cooperation with others- police, academia, local authorities













- Special attention deserves the cooperation with the prosecutors and Chief Prosecutor' office- throughout the whole project
- Results and future trends of cooperation:
  - building on existing and establishing new agreements for sustainability and follow- up
  - building a network of lawyers and other experts for better protection of victims of trafficking in Bulgaria
  - building trans- national, regional and international networks.

- The role of the NGOs for more effective protection of VsOT is recognized and has to be further developed in:
- identification and psychological and legal assistance to victims
- legal representation and assistance for seeking compensation, assistance during the proceedings
- prevention programmes and education.
- NGOs and the state through their cooperation have to face the new challenges in combating trafficking in HB, like the capacity to shelter victims and provide specialized services, the provision of specialized services for child trafficking victims, still the few convictions compared to prosecution and the issue of suspended sentences.

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