

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ALBANIA AND  
CURRENT COUNTER-TRAFFICKING STRATEGIES

Eva Lo Iacono

2009/2010

Jean-Paul Jacqué  
Jean-Bernard Marie

Université de Strasbourg

## ABSTRACT

In the modern age, a considerable number of human beings is still transferred by force to be later exploited into illegal markets, and mainly into the lucrative sexual one.

At European level, the supposed liberal Western European society continues asking for slaves. One of the main 'source areas' to satisfy this aberrant demand has been found by criminal organisations and traffickers in the close states of the Eastern Europe and of the Balkans.

This paper focuses on the current situation on trafficking in human beings in a Balkan country, the Albania, which was in the past one of the main transit points of this illicit trading towards the Schengen zone. Currently, this country has been experiencing several internal shifts: in its society, its economy and its political scenario. These new trends are partly due to Albania's willing to join the European Union.

Through a field study, answers to following questions will be searched: What are the last trends of current trafficking in Albania? Who are the offenders and the victims? What are the last tools adopted by Albanian government against this serious human rights violation? What is the reaction of the Albanian civil society against trafficking?

Thanks to:

Prof. Jean-Paul Jacqué, Prof. Jean-Bernard Marie and Prof. Florence Benoit-Rohmer for their support during my second semester and the supervision of this paper

My parents who always believe in my abilities and in my projects

All people welcomed me in Albania and helped me during my study trip: Ariela Mitri, Antonio Fantasia, Therry Dutto, Danjela Shkalla, Valerio Muscella, Anisa Haxhiaj, Skerdi Ogreni, Silvana Grispino, Zino, Francesco, Chiara and Antonella.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

6	INTRODUCTION
8	Methodology

### FIRST PART: DEFINITION OF THE ISSUE

#### CHAPTER I: TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: A GENERAL OVERVIEW

12	1.1 Common Definition of Human Trafficking? The UN Trafficking Protocol and the Council Framework Decision
15	1.2 Trafficking in Human Beings: a Human Rights Issue and a Criminal Offence
17	1.3 Effects of Globalisation and New States' Sovereignty on Human Trafficking
19	1.4 Trafficking and Organised Crime
22	1.5 Trafficking in Human Beings and Modern Slavery
24	1.6 Victims of Trafficking and the Refugee Status
26	1.7 Trafficking in Human Beings and Immigration
28	1.8 Differences between Trafficking and Smuggling
29	1.9 Main Routes of Human Trafficking in Europe

### SECOND PART: THE ALBANIAN CASE STUDY

#### CHAPTER II: CURRENT SITUATION ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN ALBANIA

	2.1 THE BALKANS AND THE ALBANIAN SOCIAL CONTEXT
35	2.1.1 The Illicit Trading in the Balkans
38	2.1.2 The Albanian Social Context and Trafficking in Human Beings
	2.2 OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
43	2.2.1 Traffickers and Criminal Networks
46	2.2.2 Trafficked Victims
51	2.2.3 Routes of Trafficking in Albania

CHAPTER III: COUNTER-TRAFFICKING STRATEGIES BY THE ALBANIAN  
GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NGOs

3.1 THE INSTITUTIONAL ANSWER TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:  
PRO AND CONS ANALYSIS

54 3.1.1 The Albanian Government Against Trafficking in Persons

61 3.1.2 IOM and OSCE' s Counter-Trafficking Measures

3.2 THE ANSWER OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN  
BEINGS: PRO AND CONS ANALYSIS

65 3.2.1 The Shelters: Reintegration Programs for trafficked victims

69 3.2.2 A Local Initiative: the Coalition “All Together Against Child  
Trafficking”

72 3.2.3 The Legal Aid Society

73 3.2.4 The “Italy, Albania and Greece against Trafficking of Women and  
Minors” Project

77 CONCLUSION

83 BIBLIOGRAPHY

87 ANNEXES