

**IOM**  
**International Organization for Migration**  
**Tirana Office**



Technical assistance on  
migration

**Counter Trafficking**

Reintegration assistance

**NGO Networking**

Migration and development


**Capacity Building**

Prevention and awareness

**Training**

Albania 2007

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**IOM celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Albania!**

# IOM at a Glance

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established on 5 December 1951 in Brussels, Belgium by the Treaty of Brussels to deal with the migration and resettlement of displaced persons in Europe after the Second World War. IOM is an intergovernmental organization, which, at present, is composed of 120 Members and 91 Observers. Since its creation, IOM has directly assisted 12 million migrants worldwide.

Migration is one of the major policy concerns of the twenty-first century. In our shrinking world, more and more people will look to migration - temporary or permanent - as a path to employment, education, freedom or other opportunities. Governments will need to develop sound migration policies and practices. Properly managed, migration can contribute to prosperity, development and mutual understanding among people. IOM exists to help migrants with all their needs and to assist governments in managing migration for the good of all.

In reacting to conflicts and emergencies, speed and flexibility are essential if humanitarian needs are to be properly met. In the post-conflict rebuilding phase, IOM helps returnees restart their lives through a variety of individual and community programmes.

As the leading international organization for migration, IOM together with its partners	assists in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management and advances understanding of migration issues
	supports the Assisted Voluntary Return and provides reintegration services for returnees
	encourages social and economic development through migration
	upholds the human dignity and well-being of migrants

As the leading inter-governmental organization for migration issues, **IOM** works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners to ensure orderly and humane management of migration; to promote understanding and international cooperation on migration issues and to encourage social and economic development through migration. It is a founder of and participant in the Global Migration Group (GMG) that brings together UN agencies and IOM to promote a coherent framework regarding migration issues and their relation to development. With a regular presence in Albania since 1992, IOM's efforts have focused on enhancing national migration management capacities in addressing irregular migration causes and effects, in promoting regular migration, and in fostering the impact of migration in the development of the country. IOM Albania has supported the development and implementation of the "National Strategy for Migration", "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings", and has facilitated the elaboration of the draft National Action Plan on Remittances. IOM is currently involved in providing capacity building on return and readmission issues as well as direct reintegration assistance to returning migrants and victims of trafficking.

# IOM in Albania



**1992** – IOM opens its Mission in Albania

**1992** – Albanian Government joins IOM as an observer member state

**1993** – Albania becomes a member state of IOM

**2001** – IOM supports Albanian Government draft of a national strategy to combat trafficking of human beings

**July 2002** – IOM inaugurates Migrant Assistance Centre in Albania/ Migrant Service Centre

**September 2003** – IOM signs agreement with European Commission (EC) to implement the project National Migration Management System

**February 2005** – IOM launches the National Migration Strategy a policy tool to manage Migration

**November 2005** – IOM organizes a Migration Fair to promote the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration

**March 2006** - IOM signs an MoU with Albanian Government and stakeholders on "Hand-over of prescreening System of Irregular Foreigners and Asylum Seekers in Albania"

**May 2007** – IOM launches a project for the further implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and its Action Plan

Although the IOM Mission opened and was operating as a liaison office since 1992, country programme activities were extended significantly in 1999 with the Kosovo crisis. During this period, IOM along with other international organizations assisted and worked closely with the Albanian government to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced Kosovo Albanians due to the war. Since then, IOM has offered technical expertise on issues related to migration management in Albania, as well as direct assistance to voluntary returned migrants and victims of trafficking.

Through VARRP, a UK funded project, IOM Tirana offers Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration assistance for returned Albanian migrants, aiming at facilitating their reintegration through job placement and vocational training.

IOM supports the Albanian government's efforts to prevent the trafficking of human beings and provides assistance to VoTs in the socio-economic reintegration process. In this regard, IOM has contributed to the draft of the national strategy to fight trafficking. In July 2005, IOM signed a MoU with the Albanian authorities on Human Trafficking Prevention through education.

Substantial support on capacity building has been given to the relevant institutions, such as the Ministry of Interior, Police Academy, Border Police Forces, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, with the aim of enhancing migration management mechanism within the country.

IOM has provided technical assistance for the drafting of the national Strategy on Migration, a project of the Albanian government funded by EU. At present the Mission is providing support for the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration. In this regard, special attention has been given to the enhancement of the remittances system, which will be concluded with the finalization of the "National Action Plan on Remittances", elaborated with the assistance of the Albanian government.

In compliance with the instructions of the Albanian Ministry of Interior, IOM, along with OSCE and UNCHR, has fostered the prescreening procedures through signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Handover of the Pre-Screening System of Irregular Foreigners and Asylum Seekers in Albania, on 27 March 2006. This MoU guarantees a smooth continuation of the proper screening procedures under the direct responsibility of the Albanian institution, as well as a more humane and appropriate handling of irregular migrant asylum seekers and victims of trafficking.

**Comment [A1]:** You are facilitating reintegration, not primarily a process

**Comment [A2]:** Left side chronology got corrupted. I can't fix it.

In the framework of the Readmission Agreement signed between GoA and EC and entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006, IOM, based on a holistic approach, is providing assistance for the combating of irregular migration in Albania and the wider region through a targeted support to capacity building within the framework of readmission support to Albania. In this context, IOM is providing support to the GoA on building mechanisms to effectively and sustainably implement readmission agreements between Albania, the EC and concerned third countries.

IOM, in partnership with UN agencies and national NGOs has also conducted awareness-raising activities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, through mobilising well known artists and footballers to reach youngsters in Albania, considered a mobile population at high risk.

A number of the IOM Albania publications provide information, data, research results and advice on migration related issues and disseminate the best practices of migration management. The Mission's publications include: "Gap Analysis on Albanian Legislation," "Albanian Migration Map," "Reports of Assisted Victims of Trafficking from Third Countries," schoolbooks on "Counter trafficking," "National Strategy on Migration and National Action Plan on Migration," "Competing for Remittances," "Best Practices in Designing Trafficking Prevention Programmes in Schools". Within the framework of the readmission project, a set of publications has been produced such as: "Proposal for a System for Handling Irregular Migrants in Line with the EU Acquis and International Norms" and "The EU Albania Readmission Agreement – Manual for Application", a "Compendium of Best Practices in Return, Readmission and Reintegration", "The Return of Irregular Migrants to Albania: An Assessment of Case Processing, Reception and Return - Needs and Modalities", "Return and Readmission: the Case of Albania", "Return and Readmission for the Perspective of Some Selected EU Member States (Belgium, Greece, Italy and UK)". Recently, in the framework of the project on remittances, the survey "Remittances and Financial Products in Albania – Reality and Future" was published, presenting an analysis of the current situation of the Albanian financial system and offering recommendations for taking a pro-active attitude toward the remittances market. All publications are available on the IOM website ([www.iomtirana.org.al](http://www.iomtirana.org.al)).

During the period 2006-2007, IOM has conducted an awareness raising campaign funded by the UK government to promote safe migration and prevent human trafficking. Teuta Koco, a well-known Albanian soprano with British citizenship, has become the IOM Goodwill Ambassador for this issue. Three TV spots, a TV documentary, leaflets, a "Guide on Safe Migration and Prevention of Trafficking", as well as other promotional items, have been produced and are being distributed during activities in the six target areas. A toll-free number, operational since 16 November 2006, offers assistance to potential migrants and VoT in order to help prevent irregular migration and trafficking of persons. A short-term info campaign aiming at increasing visibility of the service, the first of this kind in Albania, was carried out.

# Ongoing Projects in Brief



## **Building on mechanisms to effectively and sustainably implement readmission agreements between Albania, the EC and concerned third countries**

This project builds upon interventions undertaken under the B7-667 funded project for 2003 entitled “*Combating Irregular Migration in Albania and the Wider Region, Targeted Support to Capacity-Building within the Framework of Readmission Support to Albania*,” and will pave the way for more sustainable interventions to reinforce the capacity of the government of Albania to exchange information and best practices concerning the implementation of readmission agreements and return measures. The main objective of this intervention will be: to provide capacity-building to entities dealing with return and readmission, to create co-operative approaches to information exchange between administrations of E.U. States and within a sub-regional approach and to build mechanisms of improving the identification, documentation and re-integration of returnees to and from Albania. The main results of this project will be the creation of the necessary measures for dealing with the implications of the E.C./Albania Readmission Agreement and for preparing the coming into force of the third country clause of this agreement in the year 2008. The project is co-funded by the European Union and the project partners under the AENEAS Programme.

## **Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme for the referrals from United Kingdom (VARRP)**

The purpose of this project is to facilitate the voluntary and orderly return of asylum-seekers and of those granted exceptional leave to remain in the UK, to their country of origin such as Albania, and to contribute towards the sustainability of their return. The project aims to assist individuals through organizing their voluntary return to their countries of origin in an orderly and dignified manner and through assisting the returnees in their first steps towards their reintegration in the country of origin. Assistance also furthers their integration by offering vocational training opportunities, job placement and assistance in social integration. Special consideration is given to vulnerable individuals, such as unaccompanied minors, unsupported young people, people with families and individuals suffering from health or disability problems. This project, funded by UK Home Office and European Refugee Fund, started in Albania in September 2002 and since then has assisted more than 900 Albanians with return.

## **Fostering the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration**

This project aims to provide technical assistance and expertise in support of the efficient implementation of approximately 16 measures of the Albanian National Action Plan on Migration related to addressing the root causes of migration, the successful return and reintegration of Albanian migrants, the promotion of the link emigration-development and the elaboration of an appropriate legal and institutional framework for emigration and immigration. In particular, the project intends to establish a mechanism for the monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Migration. The project, funded by EC Delegation in Tirana under CARDS 2004 programme for the period 2007-2009 and co funded by the Italian government, will be implemented by IOM Tirana during 2007-2009.

## **Regional project “Combating Trafficking in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, The Province of Kosovo (Serbia), Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine: Local Action and Direct Assistance”**

This project builds upon and complements IOM's past and present activities in the region, continuing to facilitate the orderly, safe and dignified return and reintegration of trafficked persons from/through/to Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH), Bulgaria, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. It also provides direct assistance to victims of trafficking from the Balkans coming back from other countries (return/reintegration) as well as to internal victims of trafficking (reintegration). The project will further strengthen the capacities of local NGO's providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings.

In Albania, this intervention aims for full, proper and sustained implementation of the National Referral Mechanism. To this aim, the project has the following three components/directions: 1) To support the National Reception Center to provide services for Albanian and third country victims; 2) To support consolidation and expansion of the capacities of the institutions and organizations to provide qualified identification, referral and assistance services to victims of trafficking and generate resources for sustainability of the National Referral Mechanism; and 3) To support enhancing of the involvement of the state or non-state social workers in the system of identification of the victims of trafficking and to support their collaboration and mutual support with law enforcement structures. This project is funded by SIDA for the period January 2007-December 2008.

#### **Prevention and support activities for victims of trafficking**

The project aims at preventing trafficking in women in Bulgaria and Albania by strengthening the existing structures in the area of supporting the victims, and by engaging in an educational/informative campaign targeting young adolescents. The International Organization for Migration, through its Missions in Sofia, Tirana and Athens, will be actively involved in the organization and implementation of these activities in Bulgaria and Albania.

Orientation sessions and awareness-raising activities with young persons at schools, and a wider information campaign, will empower the victims by providing psycho-social assistance and by preventing trafficking, thus fulfilling these aims and objectives. The project is funded by Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the period June 2007- February 2008.

#### **IRriCO - Information on Return and Reintegration in Countries of Origin**

IRriCO – “Information on Return and Reintegration in the Countries of Origin”, is a project piloting a multilateral approach on return information among IOM missions in country of origin (Angola, Iran, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Albania, Nigeria, Guinea, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Russia), and their European receiving countries (Belgium, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the UK) in support of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programmes.

The purpose of this pilot project is two-fold: *First* it aims to set up a web based database which would allow for the provision of adequate, neutral and timely information regarding return, in support of voluntary return and reintegration opportunities for migrants in countries of origin. This database would be stored in a web page and shared amongst service providers dealing with return. The information on return that this database will contain is intended to not only facilitate an informed and sustainable return for migrants, but to also be a primary source of information for those individuals considering returning home. Information collection will be conducted in countries of origin identified by participating countries. Such information will be collected and stored under the expanding existing databank that would be accessible to all missions via a web based approach, increasing the efficiency of this information service. *Second*, the project also aims to address individual information requests on return and reintegration which would be used by return counselors. The IRriCO project is funded by EU for the period 31 October 2006 - 31 January 2008

#### **VOREALCI - “Reintegration Assistance to Albanian Citizens Returned from Italy and Greece”**

The overall objective of the project is the introduction and the enhancement of the implementation of integrated return management by supporting the return and reintegration of 25 irregular migrants in Greece and Italy, according to the Voluntary Return scheme for the return of Albanian citizens from Greece and Italy to their country of origin.

IOM Tirana implements a subcomponent of the overall VOREALCI project (Voluntary Return of Albanian Citizens from Italy and Greece to their country of origin), which is managed by the Italian agency Veneto Lavoro in conjunction with Agfol (Italy), Olivotti (Italy), Polynoe (Greece) and IOM Tirana, as well. Under this subcomponent, IOM Tirana envisages the provision of reintegration assistance to 25 irregular Albanian migrants who are willing to voluntarily return from Italy and Greece in their country of origin. The reintegration assistance includes professional training, job placement, accommodation assistance, and education, support to start up a business, health care and reintegration assistance for children, as well as community assistance. The project runs for the period August 2006-January 2008.

**Comment [A3]:** To avoid ambiguity that they may have already returned

# Projects in Pipeline

## **Support to Albania on return and visa issues**

The project aims at further strengthening the Albanian government's (GoA) capacity to effectively manage emigration and return processes, as envisaged within the context the National Strategy and Action Plan on Migration. Albania is the first European country to have entered a Readmission Agreement with the European Union (EU). Closely linked to readmission is the issue of visa facilitation, currently in negotiation with the EU. Both initiatives require Albania to set in place a number of additional migration management measures, i.a. in addressing irregular migration and strengthening border management capacity. The project actions are intended to assist in meeting these needs through a) supporting of return and readmission management, b) profiling returnees and the challenges of sustainable reintegration, and c) assessing progress in the visa facilitation arrangements and ensuing requirements for visa liberalization measures. Activities envisage capacity building and training, needs assessments, scoping studies and awareness-raising of the different requirements for pursuing regular migration arrangements with the EU. The project is funded by IOM Headquarters and will be implemented during 2007-2008.

## **Maximizing circular labour migration between Albania and Greece and Italy while facilitating returns to Albania**

The action aims to pilot a joint method of management of labor migration in departure and return between Albania and Greece and Italy, in order to strengthen the institutions and mechanisms for international matching of supply and demand, pre-departure training, legal emigration, promotion of productive return with provision for vocational training, and employment placement services for integration of returnees.

## **Promoting orderly migration within and from the Western Balkans by establishing Migrant Service Centres**

The proposed action seeks to contribute to existing efforts towards promoting orderly migration within and from the Western Balkans. The action's objective is to foster local capacity to develop policy and to integrate sustainable activities for migrants and would-be migrants to receive efficient information, advice and referral towards minimizing the risks of irregular migration, including trafficking- and optimising their possibilities of legal migration. Project activities are foreseen to start in the first half of 2008.

## **Promoting Safe Migration and Preventing Human Trafficking in Albania, Awareness Campaign: expanding interventions**

This project intends to promote regular migration and prevent trafficking in human beings in the country through consolidation of services via the national helpline, as well as by increasing the level of information about opportunities for safe migration. The project will complement and expand the actions undertaken within the framework of the project "Promoting Safe Migration and Preventing Human Trafficking in Albania" funded by the British government and implemented by IOM during 2006-2007.

**Socio-economic reintegration assistance for redundant military personnel within the scope of the Defence Sector Reform in Albania** The Albanian Ministry of Defense (MoD) is currently undertaking a structural reform of the Albanian Army pursuant to NATO recommendations, and has discussed with NATO Headquarters Tirana and IOM Tirana ways to assist in its downsizing and reintegration efforts. The main scope of the project would be to facilitate the reintegration of former defense personnel into civilian society through the provision of training and job assistance, as well as

to build the capacity of state and local authorities to cooperate with the private sector, with the aim of enhancing economic development and achieving long-term sustainable alternative livelihood solutions.

# Completed Projects

## **Enhancing the impact of migrant remittances in Albania: Creating an integrated migrant remittance system**

This project was carried out by IOM Tirana, in partnership with ILO, and aimed at strengthening the institutional and technical capabilities of the Albanian government, international organizations, non-government agencies, and local government offices in order to enhance the economic, social, and political impact of labour migrants' remittances.

The project targeted policy and decision makers and agencies and entities dealing with migration at the central and local level, as well as migrants, migrant families and migrant/Diaspora associations. The project supported the establishment of a national Interagency Working Group on remittances that has developed an effective coordination and technical mechanism, for data gathering and information/research analyses and dissemination mechanisms on both the micro- and macro-economic level. This project supported also the drafting of the National Action Plan on Remittances to be approved by the Albanian government. This project was funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **Promoting Safe Migration and Preventing Human Trafficking in Albania**

The project aimed to establish new mechanisms of information dissemination and to develop the existing mechanisms to promote regular migration, prevention of trafficking and social inclusion of victims of trafficking. This was realized by developing and implementing a wide reaching information campaign in six selected areas of the country (Kukes, Peshkopi, Shkoder, Durres, Vlore and Elbasan). The project, funded by the British government (February 2006-April 2007), took place within the framework of the joint efforts of the government of Albania and other national and international organizations to combat irregular migration and human trafficking. It complemented both IOM projects "Prevention of trafficking in human beings in the western Balkans through educational activities and capacity building of schools" and "Promoting regular migration in the western Balkans through the establishment of regional migrant service centres providing information and migration related services.

## **Source Country Information Albania**

This project concerned cooperation in the exchange of information leading to the facilitation of legitimate movement of Albanian nationals. SCI Albania, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, has provided the Consular Office and Consulates of the Italian Embassy in Albania with information directly from primary sources within various Albanian governmental agencies and offices of civil state. The information gained, directly supported professional decision-makers dealing with family reunification applications in a vastly increasing transparency, consistency, and speed of decision-making; thereby benefiting the migrant, the receiving country and Albania. This project contributed to the strengthening of the systematic exchange of information between the government of Albania and the Italian Embassy regarding family reunification procedures.

## **Expanding and Consolidating Reintegration Assistance to Former Victims of Trafficking in Albania**

This project, (November 2004 – December 2006), was a continuation of the project Reintegration Assistance to Albanian Victims of Trafficking through Capacity Building of National Reintegration Support Network, which started in December 2001. The Reintegration Centre opened in mid

February 2002, to provide temporary protection, medical and psychosocial counseling, return and reintegration assistance to Albanian victims of trafficking.

The activities focused mainly on referral and screening of beneficiaries, short and medium term accommodation in preparation of family reunification or independent living and reintegration assistance to victims, including education and training, as well as on employment placement assistance for them, and on capacity building of the local organizations working in the field.

IOM provided secondary trauma counseling by a trained psychologist. A job coordinator assisted the victims in vocational training and future job placements. In order to ensure the sustainability of assistance to victims IOM has handed over the day-to-day operations to a local NGO and to the Albanian government, as well. In this regard, IOM is also building the capacity of the National Reception Centre, a structure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The project was funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tirana.

### **Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Balkans through Educational Activities and Capacity Building of Schools**

The overall objective of the project was to prevent the trafficking of human beings in the Balkans through capacity building and educational activities, raising awareness among children in schools about the risks and consequences of trafficking, as well as non-attendees, thereby reducing their vulnerability to trafficking. Through this project, IOM with the financial support of Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented the following activities in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo:

- 1) Setting up a regional network of educational institutions and personnel. The network helps to forge links with the Ministry of Education and teachers and broadens the exchange of information and the sharing of experiences. Regular contact was maintained with key partners to enhance collaboration and the flow of information.
- 2) Holding capacity-building workshops for educational personnel.
- 3) Compilation of supplementary materials for schools. The educational tools produced for use in all the participating schools contributed to raising awareness of teachers and children alike.
- 4) Raising awareness among children, youth and their families of the risks and consequences of trafficking and of their rights as children by integrating messages into the school curriculum.
- 5) Reaching out to children not in school (non-attendees). Partner NGOs conducted activities for children who do not attend school and for their families, and they ensure follow up action.
- 6) Publication of best practices and a regional report. Best practices and the regional report were published to provide a better understanding of the trafficking phenomenon at the grassroots level, and to enable policy makers to design effective responses.

### **Combating irregular migration in Albania and the wider region: Targeted support of capacity-building within the framework of readmission support to Albania**

This project was run from December 2005 to June 2006, financed by the EC under the budget line B7-667 and co-funded by the Hellenic Ministry of the Interior. The project supported the government of Albania to fully and successfully implement their obligations under the soon-to-be concluded Readmission Agreement with the European Community, including the provisions for the return of third country nationals. It did so through a range of interventions including research, capacity building initiatives, support to the Ministry of Public Order for the creation of a closed reception centre for repatriated third country nationals, and the training of appropriate staff, as well as institutional support for enhancing reintegration of Albanian nationals who have been repatriated. Finally, the project fostered the capacity of Albania to negotiate and implement readmission agreements with third countries through improved knowledge and expertise of Albanian counterparts in readmission.

Furthermore, the experience gained through this project would be used in future readmission negotiations with the EC and other third countries.

#### **EC Funded HLWG 2003 IOM Project “Promoting Regular Migration in the Western Balkans Through the Establishment of the Regional Migrant Service Centers Providing Information and Migration Related Service**

The project was implemented in Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro (see MSC – closed projects).

The main objective of this project was to provide assistance and information to migrants, in particular: documentation and visa requirements related to working, living, and studying in the 25 EU countries as well as asylum procedures; family reunification according to national legislation and relevant EU norms; assistance to returning migrants, as well as third country nationals transiting through Albania through the referral to the return and reintegration programmes; and organization of workshops, symposiums and seminars. Through these activities MSC Tirana offered information regarding the latest migration development and trends, information on the risks of irregular migration, information on the different countries’ legislation on migration; and profiling and data collection of actual and potential migrants.

MSC Tirana collected a wide range of data from its users through questionnaires and undertook extensive profiling in order to ascertain the propensity to migrate – from age level and type of skills and qualifications of migrants, socio-economic background, and previous migration experience. This Centre, part of a regional project in the Western Balkans, aimed at promoting closer collaboration between countries of the region and closer integration with relevant EU policies in order to contribute to orderly migration management in the region.

#### **Promoting the Involvement of Albanian TV and Sports Stars in the Struggle Against HIV/AIDS**

This project was funded by UNAIDS - Programme Acceleration Funds (PAF) approved by the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, and reflected the objectives of the World AIDS Campaign and the Albanian National Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

According to statistics, 70% of HIV/AIDS cases are infected abroad. This is why IOM Albania addressed HIV/AIDS issues, which fall under the mandate of IOM, the only international agency to deal with the entire spectrum of migrant and mobile populations during all phases of mobility. The HIV/AIDS campaign was aimed at awareness-raising and fights against its related stigma and discrimination. The project implementation (April 2005 – April 2006) included the following activities: training and sensitisation of media professionals; awareness raising events with *Krasta* show singers on HIV prevention; broadcasting a video clip on awareness-raising events in Albanian high-mobility-rate cities; involvement of sports and TV stars to express their commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS and its stigma; broadcasting of radio programmes; installation of a hot line as well as organization “Male & Female” football matches on the occasion of the WAD. The drafting, printing and distribution of information; education campaign materials; and pocket-size information cards distributed at border points, tourist sites and airports in countries of departure was done in co-operation with the Public Health Institute. Famous Italian singer Max de Angelis and the sensational Albanian footballer Edvin Murati, who lives abroad, have joined the local artists in their efforts to sensitize the population on HIV/AIDS prevention.

#### **Pre-Screening of Asylum Seekers and Migrants - CARDS 2003 National Programme**

The project, as a part of a European Union (EU) grant, was implemented in close partnership with UNHCR and OSCE. It intended to assist the government of Albania assume full responsibility for managing its asylum system in the context of widespread irregular migration – an objective which

necessarily requires a holistic approach to migration management. Project objectives aimed to consolidate and develop existing procedures for the referral of asylum-seekers, irregular migrants and trafficked persons. The project provided training to improve the efficiency of the pre-screening procedure and its function within Albania's migration management strategy. Furthermore, it facilitated the implementation of asylum and migration policy and helped to ensure the overall sustainability of the intervention. The project helped to raise the profile of migration management and to encourage the perception of asylum and migration issues as important at both national and regional levels, and from political and operational standpoints.

Project partners were UNHCR (leading partner), IOM and OSCE. IOM was engaged in Police Training (Border Police) as well as cross-border workshops and training of personnel at the National Reception Centre. Reception Centres at border police points were also refurbished, and resources, facilities and training were provided to improve and support the National Reception Centre. IOM was also involved in the pre-screening of irregular migrants and third country national victims of trafficking (VoT) and assisted voluntary return (AVR). The project began in April 2004 and was completed in March 2006, with the signing of the MoU on prescreening procedures handover by the international partners and Albanian Ministry of Interior.