

THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE SPECIALISED STRUCTURES OF THE GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF THE ROMANIAN POLICE IN THE AREA OF FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME AND DRUG TRAFFICKING 01.01 – 31.05.2006

Romania's integration process in the EU represents a decisive stage for the modernisation of the Romanian society. In this context, we have to notice the important role of the Romanian Police activity in the increase of the state and its institutions authority, by means of fighting criminality and corruption, increasing the confidence in justice and in the mechanisms responsible for law enforcement and public order. The above mentioned mechanisms represent a priority.

The activities carried out during this period are based on the "The 2004 – 2007 Romanian Police modernisation strategy and the Action Plan for its implementation", which have been put together based on the European Union's directives and on the Ministry of Administration and Interior's Sector Strategy on the institutional reform, between 2004 – 2006.

The reorganization of the Romanian Police targeted compatibility with similar institutions from the European Union, designating proper competences, eliminating parallelisms, making the best use of the resources available as well as enhancing people's trust in the Police service.

The concept of institutional reorganization, based on "Best European Practices" led to the restructuring of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police on three categories of crime fighting, under the direct supervision of the Deputies of General Inspector:

- Public security;
- Criminal investigation;
- Combating organized crime,

supported by technical and scientific investigation techniques, research of crime cases and financial-logistics and intelligence analysis.

New elements in the current GIRP organisational chart include the establishment and reorganization of the following Directorates:

- Central Unit for Intelligence Analysis;
- Directorate for Combating Economic and Financial Major Crime within the General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime;
- Directorate for Combating Organized Crime, restructured after the pattern of Organized Crime and Terrorism Investigation Department within the Public Ministry and similar structures within the European Union, according to UN Convention on Combating Trans-national Crime;

- Directorate of Transport Police reorganized according to the competences of MTTC, compatible with similar structures in Europe;
- Directorate for Internal Inspection, Directorate for Firearms, Explosives and Toxic Substances, Directorate for Organization Management and Public Communication.

Considering the ever-dangerous connotations of the organized crime, which are present internally and internationally, the Romanian Police proceeded to consolidating the response force in combating such phenomenon, in order to respond in the same manner, firmly and unconditionally. Under these circumstances, the conceptual and institutional framework was re-dimensioned, in order to increase the capacity of fighting organised crime. These activities were based on a profound analysis of the phenomenon and of the profile of the offender specialised in organized crime.

As far as the first four months of 2006 are concerned:

- **3258 offences** were reported, **1710** of which committed in the field of **organised crime** and **834 drug offences**.
- **2232 offenders** were criminally charged, 1133 of which in the field of **organised crime** and 768 in connection with **drug offences**
- **485 offenders** were arrested, **197** of which in the field of **organised crime** and **262** in connection with **drug offences**.

As far as the main areas and the specialised police structures results in fighting organised crime are concerned, the situation is:

1. Fighting trafficking in human beings

As a result of specific measures adapted to the national and international tendencies in the evolution of the fight against trafficking in human beings, from January 1st, 2006 until April 30th, 2006, 257 cases were reported, involving 458 traffickers (452 Romanian nationals and 6 foreign nationals), 136 of which were arrested. From the total of 458, 301 are male, 86 female and 71 underage offenders.

716 victims were identified, 560 of them were female (109 underage). As for the victim exploitation methods, for 492 victims the nature of exploitation was sexual, for 164 victims the nature of exploitation was by forced labour, 53 victims were forced to practice begging and 7 victims were exploited in other forms.

Regarding the victims' identification, 104 of them were identified as a result of petitions, complaints, 40 of them as a result of police raids, 568 of them as a result of police investigations and 4 of them by other methods.

2. Fighting trafficking in migrants

One of the major problems in fighting illegal migration was setting up a global management of the phenomenon and finding viable solutions in the international anti-migration policies. As a result, between January 1st, 2006 and April 30th, 2006, in the area of trafficking in migrants, 96 offences were reported, 67 offenders were criminally charged and 5 were arrested.

A special case, finalised in the beginning of 2006, was that of the identification and dismantle of an organised criminal group of 13 persons, specialised in facilitation of illegal migration activity for Romanian and Moldavian citizens via Moldavian Republic, Romania, Austria, France, and Italy, by means of faked or counterfeited documents (passports, driving licence, working or residence visas). Out of the 13 members, 10 have been arrested, 8 in Romania and 2 in Hungary. It has been a result of a international cooperation with similar structures in Moldavian Republic, Austria, France and Italy, via liaison officers and SECI Centre.

3. Fighting trafficking in drugs

From January 1st, 2006 until April 30th, of the total amount 123.42937 kg of drugs confiscated, 110.53771 kg were high-risk drugs and 12.89166 kg were risk drugs.

4. Countering currency, credit-cards and traveler's cheques counterfeiting

The analysis made by the General Directorate for Fighting Organised Crime emphasised a constant decrease in the national counterfeited currency introduced in the monetary circuit, as well as a decrease in the counterfeiting activity.

From January 1st, 2006 until April 30th, in the area of countering counterfeit currency and travellers' cheques, 303 offences were detected, 179 offenders were criminally charged and 14 were arrested.

5. International trafficking in stolen vehicles

For vehicles stolen from the Western countries, Romania is still both a destination and a transit country. The phenomenon has a descending evolution concerning the number of stolen cars that remain in Romania.

The Police carries tracking, identification, investigation activities on the organised groups activating in this area, together with other organisms with attributions in this area (Romanian Auto Registry, General Inspectorate of Border Police, National Customs

From January 1st, 2006 until April 30th, 167 offences were recorded in the area of countering international trafficking with stolen vehicles and 88 persons were put under criminal prosecution.

6. Countering cybercrime

The efforts made by the specialised structures in the Romanian Police are concentrated on technical and undercover investigations, via Internet and in cooperation with private structures and foreign Police Authorities.

From January 1st, 2006 until April 30th, in the area of countering cyber criminality, 290 offences were recorded, 180 persons were put under criminal prosecution and 43 persons were arrested.

For the future, the Romanian Police targets countering more efficiently the phenomenon of organized crime, under all its forms of manifestation, thus contributing to the efforts of ensuring the order and security of the citizens, as well as to the activities regarding European integration. To this purpose, the activities are focused on the following:

- **Proper development of the activities within PHARE projects** (Twinning Light projects: “The Resource Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” and “The National DNA Profiling Database”, the Phare project 2004 on “Police Cooperation”, the Phare project 2003 on “Fighting Against Drugs”) whose financial basis is ensured from other sources (**AGIS, MATRA, MATRA FLEX**)
- **Continuing the professional training of the personnel**, mainly through finishing the pilot project of education through **e-learning** and its broad dissemination.
- **Improving the inter-institutional cooperation, as well as the cooperation with the civil society**
- **Increasing the flow and enlargement of international cooperation with similar bodies from other states, and with regional and international policing organizations.**