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PRESS RELEASE

OSCE Office in Tajikistan supports development of National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

DUSHANBE, 3 November 2010 - A session of a government working group that will develop a new action plan to combat human trafficking in Tajikistan, supported by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, concluded today with a visit by participants in an OSCE Border Management Staff College course on combating human trafficking.

The course participants and instructors - professionals from Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Tajikistan and Russia - shared experiences with members of the Working Group of the Inter-Agency Committee on Trafficking in Human Beings.

"The visit enabled the policy-makers in the Working Group to benefit from the professionals' international practical experience as they move forward with the draft Action Plan," said OSCE Gender and Anti-Trafficking Officer Maria Gratschew, who is taking part in the working group at the invitation of the government.

The Staff College's five-day course includes topics such as identification of cases, referral mechanisms, victims' assistance and other issues that are crucial for border management professionals who are likely to deal with human trafficking.

The Working Group of the Government of Tajikistan's Inter-Agency Committee on Trafficking in Human Beings comprises 13 members, representing a range of government departments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations. Some of the Tajik government representatives in the group have earlier taken part in anti-trafficking courses organized by the Tajik Police Academy and the OSCE Office.

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