Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

2009 Annual Report of Activities

March 2010
The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC) is an independent non-governmental organisation for the protection of human rights: political, civil, cultural, and social. A special priority is given to the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable groups: minorities, underprivileged groups, persons deprived of their liberty, children and women. The goals of the BHC are to promote respect and protection of human rights, to lobby for legislative changes aimed at bringing Bulgarian legislation in line with international human rights standards, to encourage public debate on human rights problems and to popularize the concept of human rights among the general public.

General Assembly of the BHC


Peter Slabakov (1923-2009)

The BHC is a non-governmental organisation established in 1992 and registered at the Legal Entities in the Public Benefit Register (certificate No. 001/12.07.2001).
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ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2009

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND MEDIA ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

The Institutional Support and Media Advocacy Program provided overall coordination and management of the BHC activities. The program has the main responsibility for fundraising for the organization’s activities. In addition, the program published the Obektiv magazine, the Human Rights in Focus electronic human rights bulletin, the BHC web page, carried out press monitoring for human rights abuses, had the primary responsibility for organizing the committee’s public events.

The program coordinates the preparation of the annual report on human rights and organizes its public launch. During the year, the program’s staff also took part in the implementation of a number of short-term projects and initiatives, trainings, public events.

The program is funded by the Open Society Institute – Budapest. Since June 2009, the program has been co-funded by the Oak Foundation.

Obektiv magazine

In 2009, the BHC published five Bulgarian issues of the magazine and one English-language digest. All issues are available for viewing and downloading at the BHC web page: http://www.bghelsinki.org/index.php?module=resources&lg=bg&cat_id=1. In late 2009, the magazine started being published only in electronic format.

The monthly editions of the Obektiv discussion club continued to initiate debates on human rights problems. Some of the publications in the magazine – on the topics of media ownership, the problems of the growing pressure on journalists - were reprinted in other media. The discussion club brought together some of the best experts in their fields to discuss current human rights concerns. A direct consequence of the analyses of this media club were invitations for giving lectures to students, participations in television and radio programs.

The discussion club worked actively on minority problems. A distinguished group of individuals – human rights activists, the editor-in-chief of the Macedonian newspaper Narodna Volja, and the leader of one of the most persecuted ethnic Macedonian parties in Bulgaria took part in the discussion ‘Is the dispute on the Macedonians real in Bulgaria?’. The Obektiv publication was cited and re-printed in several Skopje newspapers and TV programs, a news crew from Skopje was present at the discussion.

Another important discussion was the one on the ‘illegal’ monument in the village of Slavyanovo erected by the Yuzeirovi brothers. Apart from the presence of the distinguished guest, the chancellor of the Supreme Islamic Institute, Mr Ibrahim Yalamov, the discussion club achieved high levels of analyses and information completely lacking publicity.


www.bghelsinki.org

The BHC continued to maintain its website www.bghelsinki.org as a rich source of human rights information. In 2009, over 98,000 visits were
registered from 67,000 unique visitors, which marks a 22% increase over 2008.

During the year, the news section was updated daily with domestic and international human rights news; more than 2,000 news items were published on the site, with over half of them translated materials from Russian and English sources, not available in the Bulgarian media.

*The site is updated by:* Emil Cohen – news section, Desislava Simeonova, Varya Ivanova, Elena Krasteva – legal news.

**Human Rights in Focus electronic bulletin**

During the year, the BHC continued publishing the *Human Rights in Focus* human rights bulletin. Twelve issues were published, which feature 78 texts.

The beginning was put to the compilation of a representative anthology in the theory and philosophy of human rights – with the texts of famous scholars like Charles Beitz, Michael Nowak, H.L.A. Hart, Thomas Pogge, Victor Osyatinski, Joseph Raz, Kostas Douzinas.

The bulletin is uploaded on the BHC web page and sent to hundreds of readers via an electronic mailing list.

*The electronic bulletin is written by* Emil Cohen.

**International advocacy**

On April 18 2009, the European Committee of Social Rights released a ruling concerning Bulgaria where it found that Bulgaria has violated the European Social Charter by failing to meet its obligations to ensure that Roma have adequate access to the health care system. The ruling was issued in response to a collective complaint filed by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) in 2007 in cooperation with the BHC. A researcher from the Institutional Support Program played a key role in the writing of the complaint.

On 6 August, the European Committee of Social Rights found that Bulgaria had violated the European Social Charter by failing to meet its obligations to ensure that any person who is without adequate resources has access to the social assistance provided by the state. The ruling was issued in response to a collective complaint filed by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) in 2008, in cooperation with the BHC, regarding the 2006 and 2008 amendments of the Bulgarian Social Assistance Act (SSA) which drastically limit the time citizens are eligible for social assistance. The complaint argued that these limitations had an illegal and disproportionate impact on Roma, women and other marginalised groups. In an extraordinary development, the government of Bulgaria introduced amendment the SAA to restore the situation before the amendment of 2006, i.e. to make social assistance dependent only on the existence of individual needs, with no time limits.

The BHC held a number of meetings with international organizations as part of its advocacy activities.

In February, the BHC met with several members of the UN Committee on Racial Discrimination in the course of the review of the Bulgarian periodic report. Earlier in the year the BHC had submitted an alternative report on the review together with the European Roma Rights Centre. A large part of the recommendations, which we put forward in it, were adopted by the committee.

During the election campaign, the BHC held a meeting with the OSCE Monitoring Mission in
Bulgaria. Their final report on the parliamentary elections featured our concerns about the restrictive election legislation.

In October the BHC met with a delegation of the Consultative Committee on the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities.

In the period 3-5 November 2009 representatives of the BHC met on several occasions with the Council of Europe Commissioner on Human Rights and assisted his mission in Bulgaria. A large part of our conclusions were included in his report on Bulgaria, which was made public on 9 February 2010.

On 10 November the BHC took part in a public hearing on a Bulgarian case before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (Stanev and Mitev v. Bulgaria). This is the first public Bulgarian hearing after Nachova in 2004.

During the year, the BHC held a number of informal meetings with members of the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture and its Secretariat during conferences; such meetings discussed the situation in Bulgarian places of detention.

In December a BHC staff member met with a delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The main topic of discussion were violations of religious rights in Bulgaria.

Other activities

In April, the BHC gave two presentations on its activities – to the clients of the Nadezda [Hope] Organization from Pazardzhik and to the participants in the 2009 Youth for Understanding conference in Bulgaria.

In June-July, under the Equal Opportunities Partnership Project (financed by the Structural Funds) a BHC team carried out a several day training of two local NGOs – the Council of Women Refugees and Cvete Theatre.

LEGAL DEFENSE PROGRAMME

In 2009, the activities of the Legal Defence Programme (LDP) were carried out in the framework of the core support program (supported by the OSI, the Oak Foundation and the Leon Levy Foundation) and the MDAC-supported program for litigation on behalf of individuals with mental disabilities. The organization's lawyers provided pro bono litigation before the European Court of Human Rights, filed collective complaints before the European Committee of Social Rights. The LDP internship program was very popular among Bulgarian and foreign law students, who assisted in the legal activities and developed their knowledge in the sphere of human rights protection.

Domestic litigation

In 2009 the LDP continued pro bono representation on cases filed in previous years, undertook new ones and achieved the following results:

- **On cases of individuals with mental disabilities**

  In an unprecedented case before the Sofia District Court, the court held that the Dr. G. Kisyov State Psychiatric Hospital in the town of Radnevo had discriminated against its patient G.G. by stripping him of his voting rights. Only patients, which stood up to the expectations of a few psychiatrists for being ‘mentally capable’ were included in voting lists for the 25 June 2005 elections.

  The Bulgarian equality body, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, established that the minister of education had performed direct discrimination on the grounds of disability by not undertaking special measures to provide to children with special educational need effective access to education. The Ministry has failed to provide a supporting environment which would pay due attention to their individual capacities and draw up an individual syllabus with the necessary classes to cover the educational requirements and to provide appropriate study aids. These children have not been given access to education which would guarantee their further actual adaptation and social integration.

  The Supreme Prosecutor’s Office of Cassation ordered a new inquiry into the guardianship imposed on a man with a mental illness placed in a social institution. The Prosecution instructed that an investigation be performed in the health condition of the man, irrespective of the opinion of his relatives – who are his legal guardians – who did not want such an evaluation to be carried out.

Some of the most important cases filed by the LDP, which are currently being litigated, are:

- A lawsuit under the Protection from Discrimination Act against the prosecution for refusal to investigate 75 child deaths and an undetermined number of bodily injuries of children with mental and physical disabilities in institutions. Although the prosecutors established numerous death cases and bodily injuries to institutionalized children and a series of shortcomings in the system of care for them, they refused to initiate pre-trial proceedings and to establish if the deaths and traumas had resulted from the criminal negligence to the health of the children by the institution staff. The BHC claims that this inaction is the result of discrimination on the grounds of the children disability – the BHC argues that the state would not have been so lenient in prosecuting if the children had been healthy children not living in institutions.

  The remarkable development in this case, is that in late February 2010 the BHC was invited at a meeting with the Prosecutor General Boris Velchev,
where the organization was invited to take part in nationwide prosecutors inspections in 25 childcare institutions for children with mental and physical disabilities to inspect the child deaths and the violations of children’s rights. The BHC will take part in this check in March. The findings will be presented at a joint press conference after the checks.

- The BHC filed a complaint against the minister of labour and against the Sofia municipality on account of lack of care in society for people with mental problems in Sofia. The complaint was filed on behalf of a woman with a mental disability. Owing to the inactivity of the minister and the municipality to provide her with community-based care she is currently institutionalized and living isolated from society.

The programme continued the legal representation of clients in connection with: a property fraud of a man with a mental disability, which lead to his institutionalization in a social institution; a case of illegal placement in a psychiatry of a man without mental health problems; a case of placement under guardianship with the aim of ensuring maximum good representation of the client, among others.

- **On antidiscrimination cases on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion**

In the beginning of 2009, the Supreme Court of Cassation confirmed in full the decision of the lower-instance court against a company which had refused a Romani individual access to a job interview. The court explicitly stated that the violation was a substantial violation of the prohibition of discrimination.

In a landmark case, the Supreme Administrative Court confirmed the decision of the equality body, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, which had convicted the mayor of the Ovcha Kupel municipality for his anti-Roma hate speech. This is the first case, in which a civil servant was convicted to publicly apologize for hate speech and to publish the court verdict at his own expense.

On the basis of an alert sent by the programme, the Supreme Administrative Court upheld a decision of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and, unfortunately, did not establish gender discrimination against female university applicants in some courses of the Military University, where gender quotas limit female applicants severely.

The LDP filed cases against the Ministry of Interior against a discriminatory ordinance banning women from being allowed to serve in the National Guard, a unit with mostly ceremonial functions. The 2005 Ordinance states that the male sex is the determining professional requirement for serving in this unit. The case was filed before the Supreme Administrative Court on behalf of two university students and is currently pending.

The program is also engaged in other antidiscrimination cases, including the cases against the right-wing politician Volen Siderov for his hate speech against minority groups in Bulgaria, cases against refusals to access to services and employment opportunities of Roma, incitement to discrimination against certain non-traditional denominations (the followers of Shri Chinmoi), cases for domestic violence, trafficking, etc.

- **On cases of illegal causing of death, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, unlawful detention**

In February 2010 the Supreme Administrative Court upheld the decision of the Sofia City Administrative Court in which the BHC successfully convicted the Interior Ministry for illegal detention of an individual without grounds, as a punishment for disrespectful behaviour against a police officer. The individual was held in custody for 19 hours without any questioning or any other investigative actions
being carried out, which is a flagrant violation of the Interior Ministry Act.

For the ninth consecutive time, the Sofia Military Court repealed the illegal termination of the investigation of the death of a Romani man killed by the police. The prosecution appealed the decision before the Military Court of Appellate; the court confirmed the termination.

The BHC filed a complaint against the minister of justice on behalf of an inmate on account of the inaction of the minister to ensure the safety of prisoners in prison. The inmate had been attacked and severely beaten by another inmate, as a result of which he suffered life endangering injuries. The guards did not intervene to prevent or stop the violence.

The LDP continued the case against the police for degrading treatment of a detainee, transported in the trunk of the police car.

**International litigation**

**Cases before the European Court of Human Rights**

Throughout the year, the LDP continued to engage in strategic pro bono litigation before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) on account of violations of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

On behalf of several girls placed as minors in a juvenile reformatory institution, the LDP filed an application for violation of their right to liberty and security, access to a court and their right to privacy. An application was also filed on behalf of an inmate for violation of the prohibition for inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment by the prison guards.

Two new cases for illegal placement in a psychiatry were filed with the Court. The BHC drafted a position paper in connection with the response of the government in connection with the case on the eviction of Roma from Batalova Vodenitza and the case concerning the right to peaceful assembly and association of the Macedonians in Bulgaria.

On 10 November 2009 the European Court of Human Rights heard in a public hearing two cases against Bulgaria filed by people with mental health problems placed in institutions – Mitev v. Bulgaria and Stanev v. Bulgaria. Both applicants were placed under guardianship and placed against their will in a social institution. The cases arose out of the failure of the state to ensure effective protection of the rights of people with mental disabilities. Bulgaria still lacks legislation, which would guarantee that they will not be arbitrarily stripped of their legal capacity and their guardians will not abuse their rights over them.

**Cases before the European Committee of Social Rights**

In 2009 the BHC, together with partner organizations, filed several cases before the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) at the Council of Europe for violations of the European Social Charter (Revised):

In a decision made public on 18 April, the ECSR found that Bulgaria had violated the European Social Charter by not fulfilling its obligations to ensure adequate access of Roma to the system of healthcare. The decision was issued in connection with the collective complaint filed in 2007 by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) in cooperation with BHC.

In another decision made public on 6 August, the ECSR held that Bulgaria had violated the European Social Charter by not fulfilling its obligations to ensure the right of every individual who does not have sufficient means to access to state social assistance. The decision was handed down in connection with another collective complaint filed in 2008 by the ERRC in cooperation with the BHC. The complaint concerns the 2006 and 2008 amendments to the Social Assistance Act which drastically limit the time in which individuals are
entitled to receive support from the state. As a result of this decision, in February 2010 the Bulgarian parliament voted amendments to the Social Assistance Act which removed the time limits in receiving social assistance; the amendments will be effective as of 01/01/2011.

**Advocacy, legal consultations to individuals, alerts**

A memorandum detailing fundamental problems in the sphere of human rights was sent to the minister of justice in the new government in September 2009.

The LDP was as active as in previous years in the fight against discrimination. In connection with the decision of the Council of Ministers to propose legislative amendments limiting the composition of the equality body and limiting its mandate, the BHC launched an initiative and lead human rights organisations in a joint appeal supporting the Commission in a declaration. The organizations categorically denounced “any attempt to undermine the fight for equality through suppression, restriction or destabilization of the Commission”.

In 2009, too, the BHC continued an active lobbying campaign for the need for a change in the regulation governing guardianship and better understanding and protection of the human rights of people with mental disabilities. Public lectures were given by the program staff attorney Aneta Genova in Pazardjik, Veliko Turnovo and Svilengrad. Legal consultations were given to partner organizations.

In the beginning of the year, the BHC prepared a reaction against the order of the Sofia Regional Education Inspectorate at the Ministry of Education, which had instructed the directors of the schools to draw up lists of children with “suspicions of deviations in the mental and physical development”. The BHC held a series of meetings to discuss the problems of children in need of inclusive education.

On 3 November 2009 for a second consecutive year, the BHC and its Budapest-based partner, the MDAC, organized a round table on inclusive education of children. A year after the European Committee of Social Rights had ruled that Bulgaria discriminated children with mental disabilities by failing to provide education for them, civil society and the responsible institutions gathered to discuss again the measures and results following the decision. A special guest at the round table was Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner of Human Rights.

After a visit to the institution for adults with mental disabilities in Radovetz, the program sent a letter of concern to the director of the institution and the mayor of Topolovgrad in connection with the established practice of overmedication of the medicine haloperidol. A signal was sent to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination to check if voting rights violations had occurred in the institution.

An alert was sent to the prosecutor’s office in connection with the placement of children with reformatory institutions without a court order, as well as in connection with the existence of an Internet group which incited hatred to Roma. A number of letters and signals advocating for the rights of inmates were sent to the Central Penitentiary Administration.

During the year, the team of the LDP gave written consultations to citizens which addressed the BHC with requests for pro bono legal assistance. The number of such requests during the year was 348. The LDP provided answers to requests for legal aid which fall within the priority spheres of the organization.

Throughout the year, the organisation’s lawyers had media appearances and provided comments on current human rights concerns.

**Trainings and seminars**

On 19 June 2009 the director of the LDP, Margarita Ilieva, was invited to carry out a seminar on antidiscrimination law for the
attorneys from the Sofia Bar. Over 50 practicing lawyers took part in training.

In December 2009, Margarita Ilieva also gave a lecture on situational testing as a means for proving discrimination in antidiscrimination lawsuits in the framework of a conference organized by HALDE, the French equality body. She was also invited to lecture at an antidiscrimination seminar at the Academy of European Law in Trier, Germany, and at other antidiscrimination fora.

Staff attorneys from the LDP were invited to give a lecture on the practice of the civil court on antidiscrimination cases on a seminar organized by the Commission for Protection Against Discrimination, held on 23-25 September 2009.

Specialised publications

In 2009, three specialized publications on antidiscrimination issues were published from the series on antidiscrimination law and practice. They were authored by Margarita Ilieva. The books are unique analyses of the case law of the administrative, civil and supreme courts in Bulgaria on antidiscrimination issues.

Two of the publications provide an analysis of the case on the Protection from Discrimination Act by the Sofia City Administrative Court and the Supreme Administrative Court, as well as the civil courts. The third volume, *Selected Standards on Antidiscrimination Law*, makes a selection of European, international and comparative legal standards on antidiscrimination law and reflects key problems and challenges of the case law of the Protection from Discrimination Act (see more below under point 4.2.)

*The activities of the Legal Defence Programme in 2009 were carried by: Margarita Ilieva, Legal Programme Director, Daniela Furtunova, organiser, Aneta Genova, coordinator of the mental disability advocacy project, the lawyers Georgi Voinov, Maria Nikolova, Elena Krasteva, the interns Blagovesta Lambreva, Gabriela Galabova, Stefan Stefanov, and the volunteers Nina Aritonova, Irina Galabova and Yordanka Nedyalkova.*
CLOSED INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMME

In 2009, the Closed Institutions Programme started implementing a new project, Strengthening Public Oversight in the Closed Institutions in Bulgaria and Macedonia. The project activities were necessitated by the need for external control in the prison system, which would stimulate effective reform in the places of detention. The project is implemented jointly with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the Republic of Macedonia with the support of the Open Society Institute – Budapest; the activities in Bulgaria are co-funded by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.

During the year, the BHC continued its visits to prisons and oversight institutions. BHC researchers had visits with the monitoring commissions in all 13 cities with prisons, they also got in touch. The cooperation with the municipal commissions was enhanced by the round table organized in May 2009, in which members of all commissions nationwide participated.

In order to facilitate the increased capacity of the municipal monitoring commissions, the BHC wrote and published a Manual on the Activities of the Municipal Monitoring Commissions, which gives clear guidelines on their work in the prisons. The manual analyses the mandate of the municipal monitoring commissions in accordance with the new Execution of Sentences Act, develops the methodology for carrying prison visits and features the international standards for treatment of prisoners.

The project researchers carried out weekly visits to prisons, which they combined with working meetings with the municipal monitoring commissions, the regional health departments and labour inspections. Some of prison visits were carried out together with representatives of the monitoring commissions.

The BHC tried to receive access to the prison visits reports produced by the Ministry of Justice inspectorate in order to assess the quality and scope of Ministry of Justice (MJ) oversight. This request was turned down by the minister of justice quoting internal use regulations. The subsequent BHC request to receive copies of the reports under the Access to Public Information Act was turned down yet again. The second refusal to provide the reports has been appealed before the Appellate Court.

In October 2009, the BHC sent letters to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister urging them to consider the necessity to ratify the OPCAT. The letter included information on the parties who have signed/ratified the treaty and the need for the country to ratify.

Round table on strengthening prison public oversight, Lovech, November 2009

The BHC organised two round tables in Sofia and Lovech in May and November, which discussed the principles of specialized oversight and international oversight standards, including under the OPCAT and the necessity for Bulgaria to ratify this instrument. Keynote speeches at the round tables were delivered by representatives of the Ombudsman, the Supreme Cassation Prosecutor’s Office, the Chief Labour Inspection, the Medical Department at the Central Penitentiary Administration, the project partner, the Macedonian Helsinki Committee, and representatives of monitoring commissions. The location of the second round table, Lovech,
was chosen on account of the active activity of the local monitoring commission.

In June 2009, a team of BHC researchers carried out a visit to Macedonia where it took part in the regional round table organised by the Macedonian Helsinki Committee and took part in a joint prison visit in the prison in Stip.

As a result of the project activities, the project was successful in fostering the creation/activisation of the monitoring commissions in the cities of Sofia, Varna, Burgas, Pazardzhik, Stara Zagora and Sliven.

Publications in the regional press in Burgas, Varna and Ruse featured information on the activities of their local monitoring commissions connected with the organisation of qualification courses or prisons oversight visits. The BHC sent copies of these publications to all monitoring commissions to multiply the transferability of good practices. New commissions were set up in Ruse, Blagoevgrad, Kardjali and Dobrich. In 2010, the BHC will advance its efforts to encourage municipal councils to form monitoring commissions in cities where they do not exist.

Another significant achievement under the project was the initiation of a bylaw within the Ministry of Healthcare, which regulates the control of the regional healthcare centres in respect of medical activities in prisons. The plans for development of the project include also broader lobbying, new working meetings with the monitoring commissions, the regional health centres, labour inspections, prison visits. In 2010, the project will also have a new component, which will enhance external control on the educational process in prison schools and working meetings with the inspectorates of the Ministry of Education.

**Other activities**

In 2009, the Closed Institutions Programme alerted the Supreme Cassation Prosecutor’s Office for its conclusions about practices of inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment in the Vratsa prison. The Prosecutor’s Office carried out its own investigation, as a result of which the affected inmates were moved to other prisons and placed in better conditions. By itself this act was a test of the oversight capacity of the prosecutor’s office, which has a broad mandate regarding in the prison system.

At the end of the year, as in previous years, the BHC carried out a survey in four prisons with inmates which have been arrested during the last two years to study access to legal defence and the way in which the police detention was carried out. The data on the report will be published in the annual report of the BHC on the human rights situation in Bulgaria.

During the second half of 2009, the BHC researchers started work on a special report on the conditions imprisonment to inmates sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility for parole. The report is due to be published in the spring 2010.

*During the year the activities of the Closed Institutions Programme were implemented by: Stanimir Petrov – general project coordinator, Dr. Georgi Bankov – project coordinator specialised oversight, Elitza Gerginova – researcher.*
PROGRAMME FOR PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

In 2009 the Program operated with the main support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which provided 63% of the financing, the remaining 37% came from the Bulgarian government through the State Agency for Refugees with funds from the European Refugee Fund - 3 for a legal network offering legal defence, representation before the State Agency for Refugees, border counselling and monitoring, counselling for voluntary repatriation, and counselling and representation of unaccompanied children in procedure.

The program carried out its activities through a permanent reception office in Sofia and through receptions in the registration centres at the State Agency for Refugees in Sofia and Banya. Regular monitoring for police detention was carried out in the institution for temporary placement of foreigners in Busmantsi, which is a place for administrative detention of illegal immigrants. The program appealed administrative acts on behalf of asylum seekers and access to courts for asylum seekers and immigrants in case of serious violations of material and procedural rights.

The programme operates though seven people personnel, five of which are attorneys specialized in refugee and immigration law, which provide pro bono legal aid to refugees. On the basis of received funding from the European Refugee Fund 3 the programme was able to operate a national legal network. Specialised legal work was offered to categories of individuals in need of special protection, such as unaccompanied children, victims of torture or individuals with disabilities.

The most important aspect of the activity of the programme in 2009 was the monitoring of the access to the territory and procedure of asylum seekers at the borders. As a whole, from 2002 onwards the number of asylum seekers in Bulgaria was on the decrease: 2002 – 2 826 people, 2003 – 1 549, 2004 – 1 127, 2005 – 822, 2006 – 639, 2007 – 975, 2008 – 746 individuals. The need to prevent violations of the principle of non-refoulement marked the need for more extensive monitoring by the program in the places for police detention at the border and in the centre for detention of immigrants on the territory of the country. From the total number of registered asylum seekers in 2009 – 835 people – the BHC offered assistance for access to territory and procedure to 617 from them, or 72% of all asylum seekers. From them, 303 – or 35% of the asylum applicants – were assisted in Busmantsi, and 314 – or 36% - were assisted at the borders.

In addition, the program provided a total of 4202 consultations for 2477 caseloads, from which asylum seekers – 965, recognized refugees – 68, individuals with humanitarian protection - 67, 741 asylum seekers with refusals and 147 with final refusals, 9 separated children, migrants – 459, 4 foreigners with prolonged detention, 17 cases of voluntary repatriation. In 2009, 74% of the beneficiaries were men, 13,4% - women, 11.7% - children and 0.9% separated children without parents. The main countries of origin were Iraq – 36%, Palestine – 14,6%, Afghanistan – 6.7%, Iran – 5.8%, Syria – 3.5%. In 2009, eight separated children, deprived of parental care, submitted asylum applications; all of them received humanitarian statute.

In 2009 the program filed a total of 381 cases, 92 of which in accelerated procedure before the administrative courts, and 289 cases in general procedure before the Supreme Administrative Court. Representation was given in 49 cases throughout the year, of which 10 before the Sofia City Administrative Court, 39 before the Supreme Administrative Court. Fifty six cases were won at different instances.
Related activities

In 2009, the program implemented several related activities:

- **PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF REFUGEES IN BULGARIA** - Financed by the MATRA Program and coordinated by the Bulgarian Refugee Council, of which the BHC is co-founder. The project activities include conferences, trainings and working meetings between the NGOs and the state institutions, as well as drafting a common vision document and strategy of the Refugee Council. The project will run through to July 2010.

- **TRAININGS IN REFUGEE LAW** – The program carried out two trainings in refugee law for ex officio attorneys working at the National Bureau for Legal Aid as part of the program for life-long education at the Centre for Legal Training at the Supreme Bar Council.

- **DEVAS PROJECT** - The program participated in the project “Detention of Vulnerable Asylum Seekers” of the Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe, financed by the European Commission, as a national focal point in the project together with 22 EU member states. The staff lawyers conducted 30 interviews with detainees in the Busmantsi Detention Center and made an analysis of the legislation on involuntary placement in order to establish the conditions for detention in the country and their compliance with international standards. A national report was published on the basis of these country researches on the conditions for administrative detention with recommendations for needed legislative changes.

The activities of the programme were implemented by: Iliana Savova – programme director, Antoaneta Sabeva – consultant, Valentina Nielsen, Georgi Toshev, Elitza Sekulova – accountant, Mariana Andreeva and Plamen Zhelev.
PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, RESEARCHES

HUMAN OF THE YEAR 2009 – ANNUAL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS

On 10 December 2009 – Human Rights Day – the BHC organized the award ceremony for Human of the Year 2009 – annual award for contribution to human rights. The ceremony attracted outstanding media interest. A six-member jury gave the award for outstanding contribution to human rights in 2009 to Theodora Zaharieva (top) for her work in protecting patient’s rights.

The initiative was supported by the Netherlands Embassy in Sofia.

In the second edition of the Human of the Year Award, nominees were nominated in an open process by the public; 22 of them were approved by the six-member jury to be nominated for the award. Theodora Zaharieva, founder of the Centre for Protection of the Rights in Healthcare, became the holder of the prize. The civil initiative “Spasi, dari na...” [Save a life, donate to...] won the audience award.

“Theodora and the Centre have been successful representing their clients in cases of significant public value against state authorities, and their victories in court benefited thousands of people, winning thousands of leva in damages. The cases concern medical malpractice, medical care denial, and inadequate medical equipment, the authorities’ failure to introduce legislation that would guarantee the right to adequate health care and to provide medications. The Centre’s litigation activities include groundbreaking class actions that aim at providing protection on a large scale to particular groups of patients. Among these are lawsuits against pharmaceutical corporations for damage to health caused by medical research. The Centre’s work combines the true human rights approach and the conviction that the people should have control over their human rights, that these rights are achievable, and that all depends on each of us”, said Margarita Ilieva, initiator of the award and chair of the jury.

The winners (from left): Theodora Zaharieva, Kapka Panayotova, Ivo Indjev, Donka Panayotova, Veselina Georgieva from “Save, Donate ...

Apart from the first award, the jury gave our two runner-up and two special prizes. Donka Panayotova from the Vidin-based Drom Organization and the Facebook group “Voting Without Borders” were given awards for their efforts in advocating for equal education opportunities for Roma children and opening new voting sections outside Bulgaria during the July 2009 parliamentary elections, respectively. Kapka Panayotova from the Centre for Independent Living received the award for overall contribution to human rights. Kalina Pavlova received the award for outstanding perseverance in her fight for the protection of public interest in the case of an environmental problem in Varna. The award of the public was awarded to “Spasi, dari na...” [Save a life, Donate to]. The journalist Ivo Indzev received a special award for the most nominated individual.

Over 15,000 votes were given in the online voting for the audience award.
A special web site was published for the initiative - www.humanoftheyear.org. Only for two months, from 11 October (when the initiative was launched) to 11 December 2009 it registered over 24,000 visits from 15,000 unique visitors.

Human of the Year 2009 was implemented by: Margarita Ilieva – initiator of the award and chair of the jury, Desislava Petrova, Desislava Simeonova, Ivan Bedrov, Mimi Furnadjieva, Yana Buhrer Tavanier – members of the jury.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE STRUCTURES ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS OF DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

The project’s main aim was to stimulate the process of deinstitutionalization of the care of people with mental disabilities by identifying the obstacles to the process as experienced by the stakeholders. It was finalized in October 2009. The project was designed by the BHC and implemented in partnership with the Institute for Human Relations in six regions in the country with the support of the Matra KAP Programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two organizations carried out an evaluation of all forms institutional care to individuals with mental health problems and the newly-opened centres for community care in 14 municipalities nationwide. The researchers visited 40 social care departments, 18 specialized institutions and 20 centres for community care. They carried out 15 follow-up visits in problematic establishments, and a third cycle of visits in the places where the most severe problems were established.

Reports on the state of care in the six regions were prepared, which gathered the viewpoints of all participants in the policy for deinstitutionalizations at the local level, identified the existing resources, deficits and barriers. At the organized six regional round tables, all the regional stakeholders gathered to discuss the progress of deinstitutionalization of people with mental disabilities.

In October 2009 the BHC published a 180-page analytical report on the project which contains a map of institutional and community-based social services in the country, the mechanisms of deinstitutionalization, and an evaluation of the process of deinstitutionalization of the social services in the different regions. The report also analyses the legislative deficits and the puts forward recommendations for reform.

The BHC also engaged in advocacy activities in connection with established inhuman and degrading treatment practices in Goren Chiflik and Oborishte. An agreement was reached with the Varna regional social assistance directorate to rediagnoze clients in the two institutions, hospitalize clients in a severe health condition, etc. The Legal Defence Programme undertook legal defence in several cases of institutionalized clients.

The BHC cooperated successfully with the journalist Yana Buhrer Tavanie during part of the visits. As a result of the visits with the BHC, Yana wrote the Bulgarian part of her research on the care for people with mental disabilities in Bulgaria. Her report, published in October 2009, “Dumping Grounds for People”1, was reprinted in the national Dnevnik daily, as well as in the influential German Süddeutsche Zeitung and the Austrian Die Presse.

The project was implemented by Antoaneta Nenkova - coordinator, Krassimir Kanev, Antoaneta Mateeva, Toma Tomov.

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1 See the whole report at http://dumpinggroundsforpeople.wordpress.com/
STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH TRAINING OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, LAWYERS AND JOURNALISTS

The project was implemented in March-December 2009. It aimed to enhance the knowledge of civil society, journalists and lawyers to combat torture and freedom of speech violations.

It was supported by the Financial Mechanism of EEA by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

In July and December 2009, the BHC organized two interactive trainings on the prohibition of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment and on freedom of expression for 62 professionals.

The BHC produced two manuals on the respective topics, which were given to the participants. The first one, on torture prevention, was published in late 2009, as volume 1 of the series ‘Introduction to Human Rights’. It is authored by Krassimir Kanev. The manual presents the international standards on the protection from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, it analyses the provisions of international treaties banning such treatment and the case law of the bodies, which have interpreted them. The analysis is focused on the relevant case of the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture.

The participants in the training received Bulgarian translations of the Rules of the European Court of Human Rights and the Manual for Practicing Lawyers of the International Organisation Against Torture for filing applications under Art. 3 of the ECHR.²

The participants in the December training received the first copies of the manual on freedom of expression. The manual, authored by Krassimir Kanev, Boyko Boev, Polina Russinova, is expected to be published in mid-2010. In the meantime, it can be accessed on the BHC web site.

In December 2009, the BHC published the materials for freedom of speech seminar in a special section in its site.³ The launch of the section was announced among the BHC media contacts in early 2010.

The BHC would to thank the legal portal Lex.bg for its efforts in publicising the seminars among the legal community.

The project was implemented by the Legal Defence Programme (seminar 1) and the Core Support Programme (seminar 2 and overall coordination).

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² Available at: http://www.bgheelsinki.org/www.bgheelsinki.org/resources/OMCT_Article3_ECHR_Admissibility.doc

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION REGIME IN BULGARIA

The project was launched in 2008 with the goal to make an review of the antidiscrimination regime and the case law in the application of the Protection Against Discrimination Act (PADA) five years after its entry into force. The project was implemented in partnership with the Equal Rights Trust (ERT).

The activities were supported by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.

The project included a legal analysis and evaluation of the practice of the civil courts on the Protection against Discrimination Act. A book was published authored by Margarita Ilieva, which provides a commentary and analysis of several hundred decisions of first instance and second instance courts from different courts and the case law of the Supreme Court of Cassation. The analysis is based in the case law of the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, other international jurisdictions and selected national courts of EU member states.

For the purposes of the research, the BHC carried out six focus group discussions with representatives of several vulnerable groups about the situations in which they face discrimination and the mechanisms of protection available to them. The project partner, the Equal Rights Trust, prepared a report on good practices in implementing equality laws in the United Kingdom.

The project results were presented at a national seminar on ‘Protection from Discrimination – civil law aspects’, held in Varna on 24-25 September 2009. The event was co-organized by the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, the National Institute of Justice and the BHC in the part related to presenting the project results.

The project was implemented by a team, consisting of the BHC and the Equal Rights Trust, under the overall coordination of Krassimir Kanev. Margarita Ilieva is author of the legal analysis. Dimitrina Petrova is author of the report on good practices in antidiscrimination in the United Kingdom.
RESEARCH “STUDY OF THE PHENOMENON OF THE ‘YELLOW PRESS’”

The project for studying the phenomenon of the ‘yellow press’ was implemented in the period February – December 2009 with the support of the Open Society Institute - Sofia.

Two teams worked on the project, a media and a sociological. They analysed the reasons and the effects from the growing popularity of the yellow press set against the background of the falling circulations of the printed publications in Bulgaria. The research focused on the Weekend newspaper, as the most successful model of yellow press in the country at present. One of the main reasons behind the study of this kind of press is the migration of the readers of the mainstream publications to the yellow press, owing to deficits and insufficiencies of the national press.

The project began with the drafting up of a sociological questionnaire, which studied the information needs of the readers of the yellow press, their political and value orientations, their ethnic belonging, social status. A special focus of the research was the study of the reader’s auditorium and attitudes to the Weekend weekly.

In May 2009 the Open Society Institute – Sofia carried out a survey of the cultural attitudes, value and political orientations of Bulgarians among 1,173 respondents, with an enforced survey among 553 readers of the newspaper.

In September, the data from the research were processed in a special report. The results of the survey were published in a special edition of Obektiv.

The media monitoring on the project covered the Weekend issues from 2008 and 2009.

In December, the special edition of Obektiv was issued, entitled “The Yellow Press – the Weekend Phenomenon.” The issue, available in Bulgarian on the web site of the BHC, features articles on the empirical data:

1. Vyara Angelova – “Weekend in the centre of the new newspaper changes”; “The Language – Yellow or of the People?”
4. Dimitrina Cherneva – “The Yellow Newspapers in the Field of Identification of the Sources of Information”.

The special edition of Obektiv is available online on the BHC website: http://www.bghelsinki.org/index.php?module=resources&lg=bg&id=905

The research was carried out by: Yuliana Metodieva – coordinator; Vyara Angelova – media monitoring; Dimitrina Cherneva, Lilia Grigorova, Yana Buhrer Tavanier – documentation officers; Emil Cohen – data analysis of sociological data, Krassimir Kanev – methodology of the sociological survey; Alexey Pamporov and team – sociological team of the Open Society Institute – София.
PROVISION OF THEMATIC LEGAL STUDIES FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY

In 2009, the BHC wrote several reports for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. The Agency was created in 2007 to provide the institutions of the member states with information and data on the human rights in these countries.

The 2009 researches focused on the application of the Equality Directive in Bulgaria (February-April), access to justice in civil discrimination cases (July-September), protection of the rights of immigrants (May-June), the rights of individuals with mental health problems (October-November). A new analysis was made of the national legislation and case law on it with respect to protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. The reports findings focus on the problems of the inadequate functioning of the state bodies mandate with rights enforcement. In November a situation report on human rights in Bulgaria in 2009 was written.

The BHC also prepared four quarterly bulletins on the state of human rights, which focused on the spheres of: access to justice, rights of migrants and refugees, rights of the child and discrimination, visa control, access to information.

In early 2010, the BHC is updating its study on homophobia and discrimination of the grounds of sexual orientation.

The project activities are carried out by Slavka Kukova – lead researcher, in consultation with other BHC staff.

PROJECT FOR PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS

The project for protection of the rights of children in institutions continued working on cases of severe violations of children’s rights and to take part in development of legislation and policies directed at more effective protection and deinstitutionalization.

The work of the BHC on the problems of children’s rights was focused on monitoring the closure of the notorious Mogilino child care institution, as well as the process of closure of the institution in Gorna Koznica. The BHC is taking part is several working groups on change of legislation in the sphere of juvenile justice, deinstitutionalization and support of families to prevent child abandonment.

In July 2009, after the new government was formed, the BHC send memoranda to all key ministries responsible for child protection, with a description of all the key measures that the new government should undertake to ensure effective protection of children’s rights. Meetings with senior staff of the political cabinet of the minister of education, the minister of social policy, the chair of the State Child Protection Agency. They expressed willingness to prioritize the BHC spheres of concern.

In September 2009 the BHC took part in the preparation of an alternative report on the state of human rights in Bulgaria, written by a coalition of NGOs and presented in November.

The project maintains contacts with charities in Great Britain, Belgium, Holland in order to channel donations towards local initiatives aimed at genuine deinstitutionalization. As a result, new homes were opened for young people leaving their homes, financial support was given to children for inclusive education and placement in community-based services, etc.

The project activities were carried out by Slavka Kukova.
ФИНАНСОВАТА АУДИТОРСКА ЗАСЕКА

ДОКЛАД
НА НЕЗАВИСИМИТЕ ОДИТОРИ

ДО РЪКОВОДСТВОТО
НА СДРУЖЕНИЕ БЪЛГАРСКИ ХЕЛИЗИНСКИ КОМИТЕТ

Доклад върху финансовия отчет

Ние извършихме доклад върху финансовия отчет на СДРУЖЕНИЕ БЪЛГАРСКИ ХЕЛИЗИНСКИ КОМИТЕТ, включващ счетоводен баланс към 31 декември 2009 г. и отчет за приходите и разходите, отчет за промените в собствения капитал, отчет за печалбата за годината, завършваща на тази дата, както и общообложното оповестяване на съществените счетоводни политики и другите пояснителни приложения.

Отговорност на ръководството за финансовия отчет

Отговорността за изготвянето и достоверността на този финансов отчет в съответствие с националните стандарти за финансови отчети за малки и средни предприятия се носи от ръководството. Тази отговорност включва разработване, извършване и поддържане на системата за вътрешен контрол, свързана с изготвянето и достоверността на финансовия отчет, което да съдържа съществени неточности, отклонения и високозатрептения, независимо че те се дължат на различия или на грешки, включително при избор на счетоводни политики, използване на приблизителни счетоводни оценки, които да се разкриват при конкретни обстоятелства.

Отговорност на овитори

Нашата отговорност се свежда до изпълнение на определено мнение върху този финансов отчет, основаващо се на извършения от нас доклад. Нашите доклади бяха проведени в съответствие с професионалните изисквания на Международните стандарти за ръководство в финансова аудитория. Тези стандарти надхвърлят нормативите за изпълнение, което е идентично с онова, което е планирано и проведено така, че не да се убедим в равнина степени на сигурност доколко финансовият отчет не съдържа съществени неточности, отклонения и високозатрептения.

Избраните процедури засягат от преценката на методологията за проверка на счетоводните документи, включително оценката на рисковия материал, включващ неточности, отклонения и носещи високозатрептения. Общата процедура, включваща оценката на финансовия отчет, независимо че те се дължат на различия или на грешки, при извършването на тези оценки на риска, оценка, включена в първото мнение, както и в горните оценки, е включващо оценка на условията на прилагане на счетоводни политики и различни условия от обективните счетоводни оценки, направени от ръководството, което и оценки за обективността на проверката на финансовия отчет.

Също така включва оценка на устойчивостта на прилаганите счетоводни политики и различни условия на прилагане на счетоводни оценки, направени от ръководството, което и оценки за обективността на проверката на финансовия отчет.

Member of Eura Audit International
Member of BOSCI

42, G. S. Rakovski Str., 1202 SOFIA, Bulgaria,
Tel.: (359) 2 491 86 30, 491 86 31, 491 86 32, 491 86 33
Mobile: (359) 889 310 983, www.bix.bg, e-mail: office@bix.bg
Мнение

В резултат на това, удостоверяваме, че по Наше мнение финансовия отчет представя достоверно, във всички съществени аспекти, финансовото състояние на СДРУЖЕНИЕ БЪЛГАРСКИ ХЕЛИВИНСКИ КОМИТЕТ към 31 декември 2009 г., както и за нейните финансови резултати от дейността и за паричните потоци за годината, завършваща тогава, в съответствие с Националните стандарти за финансови отчети за малки и средни предприятия.

Доклад върху други законни изисквания

Съгласно изискванията на чл.34, ал.4 от Закона за счетоводството, ние изразяваме и мнение относно Годишния доклад за дейността. Ние извършихме преглед на годишния неконсолидиран доклад за дейността за 2009 г., изготвен от ръководството на СДРУЖЕНИЕ БЪЛГАРСКИ ХЕЛИВИНСКИ КОМИТЕТ. Годишния доклад за дейността е разработен в съответствие с изискванията на чл.33, ал.1 и 2 от Закона за счетоводството. Отговорността за изготвяното на този доклад се носи от Ръководството.

По ние мнение неконсолидираната финансова информация, представена в годишния доклад на ръководството за дейността за 2009 г., съответства във всички съществени аспекти на финансова информация, която се съдържа в годишния неконсолидиран финансов отчет за същия отчетен период.

СОП „ЕВРООДИТ Биз Експ" ООД
Управител:
ИЗАБЕЛА ДЖАЛЪЗОВА

Регистриран оценор, отговорен за едната:
ИЗАБЕЛА ДЖАЛЪЗОВА

12 март 2010 година
Гр. София, България
FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE BHC
The report covers the period 01.01.2009 - 31.12.2009

I. INCOME

A. Financing received in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Amount in EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak Foundation</td>
<td>Institutional Support And Media Advocacy Program</td>
<td>122 364.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
<td>Refugees and Migrants Legal Protection Program</td>
<td>81 917.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Institute - Budapest</td>
<td>Strengthening Public Oversight in Prisons in Bulgaria and Macedonia</td>
<td>72 014.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Institute - Budapest</td>
<td>Institutional Support And Media Advocacy Program</td>
<td>62 686.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Refugee Fund</td>
<td>Ensuring Legal Defence for Asylum Seekers and Improving the Quality of Defence</td>
<td>51 282.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Disability Advocacy Centre - Budapest</td>
<td>Advocacy on Behalf of Individuals with Mental Disorders</td>
<td>32 887.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human European Consultancy, the Netherlands</td>
<td>Thematic Legal Studies for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights</td>
<td>15 582.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe</td>
<td>Assistance for the Reform in the Bulgarian Penitentiary Institutions</td>
<td>14 976.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland NGO Fund</td>
<td>Building the Capacity of Human Rights NGOs, Lawyers and Journalists...</td>
<td>10 891.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Roma Rights Centre</td>
<td>Organizing a Round Table on the ECSR Decisions Concerning Bulgaria</td>
<td>8 054.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands Embassy in Sofia</td>
<td>Organizing the Human of the Year Award 2009 Ceremony</td>
<td>7 600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Society Institute - Sofia</td>
<td>Study of the Phenomenon of the Yellow Press</td>
<td>3 655.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Commission, through the Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe</td>
<td>DEVAS Project</td>
<td>2 830.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matra Kap Program, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>Needs Assessment of the Structures Engaged in Deinstitutionalization</td>
<td>1 597.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Capacity Operative Program</td>
<td>Equal Rights Partnership</td>
<td>1 025.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy</td>
<td>Program for Hiring Personnel under the Encouragement of Occupation Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from book sales</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 844.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from sale of car</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 666.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>BHC annual membership fee</td>
<td>Membership fee</td>
<td>1 005.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from bank income rates</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 603.06</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income in 2009 in EUR:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>501 000.82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Remaining funds from 2008 in EUR:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>162 613.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## II. EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount in EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Office maintenance, administrative expenses, travel, human resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office maintenance (maintenance, taxes, rent, insurance, communications)</td>
<td>22 146.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative (consumables, equipment, software, subscription, books) and other services</td>
<td>73 137.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, domestic and international, maintenance of office vehicle</td>
<td>10 087.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- on permanent labour contracts</td>
<td>45 847.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- on short-term contracts, including with lawyers, for research, consultants, translations</td>
<td>250 771.79</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. Publishing books</strong></td>
<td>8 393.85</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Audit</strong></td>
<td>1 247.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Court fees</strong></td>
<td>448.96</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. Other expenditure</strong></td>
<td>50 458.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation of the ENAR Annual Meeting</td>
<td>213.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECRE membership fee</td>
<td>300.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returned unspent funding under the Open Society Institute Internship Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returned financing under the project &quot;Equal Opportunities for Women. Now!&quot;, Democracy Commission</td>
<td>1 866.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferred funds to the Macedonian Helsinki Committee under a joint project</td>
<td>42 852.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated books</td>
<td>1 578.67</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure in 2009 in EUR</strong></td>
<td>462 538.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds remaining for 2010 in EUR</strong></td>
<td>201 076.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BHC STAFF IN 2009

CHAIR
Krassimir Kanev

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMME
Desislava Simeonova, programme director
Vyara Ivanova, administrative director
Assya Grudova, chief accountant (until May 2009)
Severina Petkova, accountant-clerk
Radoila Hristova, technical assistant
Iveta Bancheva, technical assistant
Krassimir Gegov, technical assistant
Violeta Dimitrova, cleaning offices

LEGAL DEFENCE PROGRAMME
Margarita Ilieva, attorney-at-law, director legal programme
Daniela Furtunova, attorney-at-law, organiser
Aneta Genova, attorney-at-law, coordinator mental disability advocacy project
Georgi Voynov, legal counsellor
Elena Krasteva, legal counsellor
Maria Nikolova, junior attorney, legal counsellor
Gabriela Galabova, paralegal
Blagovesta Lambreva, paralegal
Stefan Stefanov, paralegal
Nina Aritonova, volunteer
Irina Galabova, volunteer
Yordanka Nedyalkova, volunteer

CLOSED INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMME
Stanimir Petrov, project coordinator, general prisons oversight
Dr. Georgi Bankov, specialised prison oversight
Eliza Gerginova, researcher

MEDIA ADVOCACY PROGRAMME
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The accounting services of the BHC are carried out by the Staneva, Zhelkova and Georgiev Accounting Company.

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