



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

Ombudsman - National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) carried out **regular unannounced visit** to the Temporary Transit Center “Tabanovce” – Kumanovo, on **28.09.2016**. This visit was the last one in a series of follow up visits carried out on the following dates: 03.06.2016, 08.07.2016, 22.07.2016, 29.07.2016, 10.08.2016 and 18.08.2016.

National Preventive Mechanism carried out these visits according to its mandate and competences arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Law on Ombudsman. The aim of the visit was to assess the implementation of the recommendations given in the Special Report of the National Preventive Mechanism issued on 01.06.2016 as well as identifying risks in order to prevent torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

During its last visit, the NPM team found that there are **61 persons** accommodated in the Temporary Transit Center “Tabanovce”, of whom **13 men, 12 women and 36 children**.

It is evident that the number of migrants / refugees accommodated in the Temporary Transit Center is much lower compared to the number of refugees found at the time of the visit carried out on 20.05.2016, which refers to the fact that the residents can easily leave this Center, unlike the Temporary Transit Center “Vinojug”.

In terms of implementation of the aforementioned recommendations, the NPM team found that most of the recommendations have been implemented by the relevant authorities in the Temporary Transit Center “Tabanovce”.

The cooperation and coordination between the competent authorities for management and organization of the Transit Center has been improved. The infrastructure in the Transit Center “Tabanovce” has been also improved; the old bungalows were replaced with living containers for accommodation of refugees/migrants, and a playground for children has been constructed.

The refugees / migrants are generally satisfied with the living conditions in the Center and their treatment by the officials and representatives of the organizations present on site. There are educational activities for the children at the center upon the program adopted and approved by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. Once or twice a month the migrants / refugees are taken to Kumanovo.

However, NPM found that the migrants / refugees are disappointed since they are stuck ‘in limbo’ in months-long detention in the Transit Center “Tabanovce”.