

## Report of the National Forum

### Labor Trafficking- Fine Tune responses

The meeting took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2013 and gathered 20 participants, representatives of state authorities, physiologists specialized in the work with victims of trafficking as well as the staff of the ANITP Regional, NGOs, representatives of trade unions from Bucharest and representatives of the Minister of Labor.

The event has been organized by AIDRom in cooperation with the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons.

The forum has been opened by the national coordinator, Ms. Elena Timofticiuc who invited the participants to present themselves and the projects related to the subject.

After a short presentation of the Agency, the director of the National Agency against Trafficking in persons, gave relevant information regarding the situation of victims of trafficking for force labor registered in 2012.

From the total of 1100 registered victims, 410 were trafficked for the purpose of force labor. The origin of the counties of the victims were: Moldova region and the south of Romania.

The destination countries: Germany (85 – construction, agriculture, domestic work, bars and restaurants), Italy (67 persons – agriculture, construction, hotels and domestic work), Spain 60, Cyprus 21, Greece 26, Iraq 13, etc...

Labour exploitation occurs most often in economic sectors where undocumented jobs are at particularly high levels, making difficult to investigate such illegal and forced labour: agriculture, construction, hotel services, "domestic" labour or sales.

**In the last months, 26 victims were repatriated** from various European countries, with the appropriate steps being taken by the foreign judicial authorities, social services in countries of destination, Romanian embassies or consulates, foreign NGOs or Romanian NGOs acting on information received from foreign partners. "

In the end of the presentation Mr. Maximilian insisted on the importance of the joined actions in cooperation with the NGOs and church NGOs due to the impact of the message on the civil society

The specialists from ADPARE could provide best practices methods in the identification of victims of trafficking for force labor or other types of trafficking.

The participants were informed on the identification of the potential victims living in the destination countries, but also on the new diagram for assistance service. The priests as well as the social workers were informed on 4 direct case management files of trafficked persons in Germany.

The work with the victims of trafficking for force labor is more complicated due to the complexity of the exploitation.

The participants emphasized the need of information on trafficking and on labor migration, due to increasing cases of persons being trafficked for labor purposes. Some of them had already started to work on prevention activities – information sessions with

young people and unemployed, dissemination of informational materials in their churches as well as in the social centers.

A very important aspect mentioned by the participants was the lack of communication with the Romanian Embassies or with the consulates in the country of destination. Some cases were discussed in order to find a relevant solution for the victims.

The need of cooperation with the trade unions was expressed several times.

Unfortunately the representative of the trade union from CNSRL Fratia, Mr. Cornel Constantinoia was hesitant in his intervention regarding the possibility of trade unions in being active in the process of direct counseling.

His proposal was to organize such meetings in the regions of risk of unemployment and poverty, where the representatives of trade union can inform the people regarding the risks of trafficking for force labor. In his opinion the labor inspection and the Minister of labor are the institutions that should be active in this process, because the unemployed people are going to ask for jobs to the recruitment agencies and not to the trade unions. He also underlined that a region where no NGOs or state institutions are active in the field of trafficking or in the field of labor rights is the southern part of Romania in the towns of Constanta and Tulcea. In these regions it is a big rate of unemployment and a big lack of information.

The representatives of EURES proposed a direct cooperation and ask for the support of AIDRom in the counseling process of the persons seeking for a job abroad.

In their opinion, the Forum developed by AIDRom it is innovative in its approach of bringing Church, Trade Union and State actors together.

The participants proposed to continue to focus on the trafficking for force labor from two perspectives. One approach was the recruitment through internet.

Report done by Elena Timofticiuc