



TOLERANT
Support Victims of Human Trafficking

TOLERANT: Transnational network for Employment integration of women victims of trafficking

Newsletter No10
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TOLERANT is a transnational network aiming to support the regular exchange of good practices, experiences and information related to ground work for integrating women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation (VoT) in employment and for promoting their economic empowerment.

LEARN ALL THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT TOLERANT PROJECT

ROMANIA: Protection and assistance provided to victims of human trafficking.

AIDRom continued to be a main actor in 2022 in terms of assistance to victims of human trafficking in Romania.

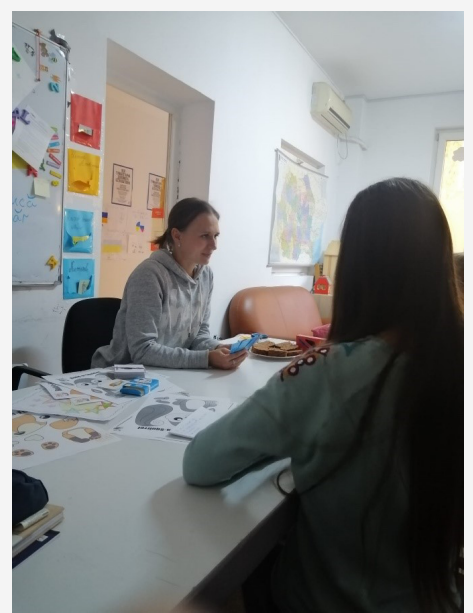
Thus, in AIDRom's multifunctional centers, victims of human trafficking had access to counseling services, therapy and individualized intervention, accompaniment in educational endeavors, educational support and support for integration into the university environment. Residential assistance continued as permanent services, but also material assistance, support consisting of food and sanitary products.

Our efforts also focused on mediating the relationships of victims of human trafficking with their family of origin, a prerequisite for a good reintegration into the family.

We have not neglected, in the framework of our activity, the counseling of people in a situation of risk or social vulnerability. The counseling approach was aimed at people from vulnerable categories. Thus, the unemployed, refugees, asylum seekers, single women benefited from counseling services to integrate them into the labor market.

Together with the specialists of the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, we were also present at the Regional Centers for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum Seekers, where asylum seekers from various countries benefited from information to prevent their risk of trafficking and to reduce their vulnerability to human trafficking

The Romanian authorities have developed a coordinated response to manage as best as possible the problems faced by refugees, on all levels, including the risk of them being exploited in the context of human trafficking, meaning that all the actors involved have carried out activities which would remove or limit the possibility of victimization of refugees through human trafficking. At the MAI level, action was taken through specific measures on the anti-trafficking component, as well as on prevention and support



ANITP, together with institutional partners (government institutions, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and international organizations), carried out supported activities by providing refugees with the necessary information, in the Ukrainian language, to prevent victimization.

Thus, numerous materials (flyers, brochures) were developed, which contain emergency phone numbers, were being distributed at border crossing points and asylum centers, this information being also posted on the websites and social networks of actors involved in the fight against human trafficking, including the Romanian Government.

Also, ANITP staff, throughout the country, carry out information/training actions for specialists who may encounter potential victims, regarding traffic indicators and how to act in such situations.

PROJECT PARTNERS



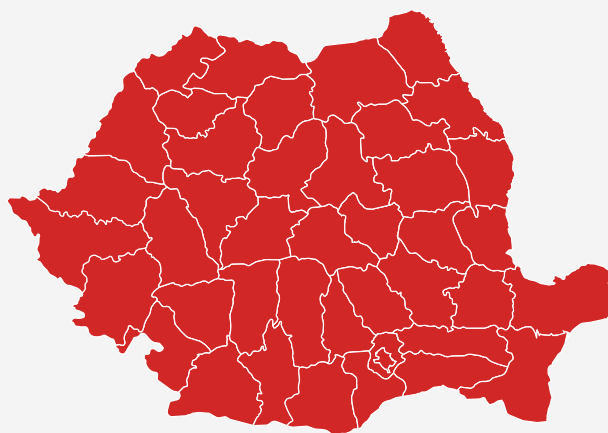
Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union

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► ROMANIA

At the end of October, the first meeting of the National Working Group for the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and the risks associated with human trafficking, intended for people displaced from Ukraine, took place at the Government headquarters. The agenda of the meeting had as its starting point the five directions of action based on the European Commission's plan:

- Awareness of human trafficking;
- Consolidation of prevention activities;
- Law enforcement monitoring;
- Improving the early identification of victims and the assistance provided to them;
- Risks related to human trafficking in third countries (Rep. of Moldova) and cooperation.



The ProTECT platform, the collaboration platform of organizations specialized in prevention, protection, victim assistance, criminal and civil procedures, lobbying and advocacy for initiatives with a greater impact in the fight against human trafficking, www.traficdepersoane.ro, has supported since the beginning of the war, the creation of a system of verification of actors who provide accommodation, transport and jobs to Ukrainian refugees, as well as the need for an individualized approach among vulnerable people, when it comes to the prevention of human trafficking in all its forms, sexual exploitation, exploitation through labor, forced begging etc.

The members of ProTECT, a union of which AIDRom is a part, have so far assisted several people at risk among Ukrainians with specialized services, carried out prevention campaigns and created informative materials in the online environment to promote safety measures and reporting methods of potential cases.

The ProTECT platform is also co-chair of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force within the UNHCR, AIDRom's implementation partner in some of the most important projects carried out.

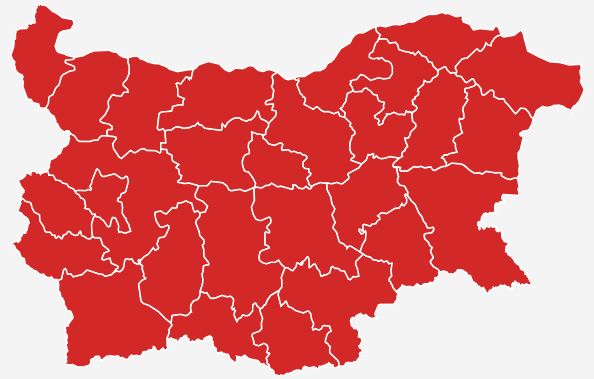
<https://www.facebook.com/platformaprotect>



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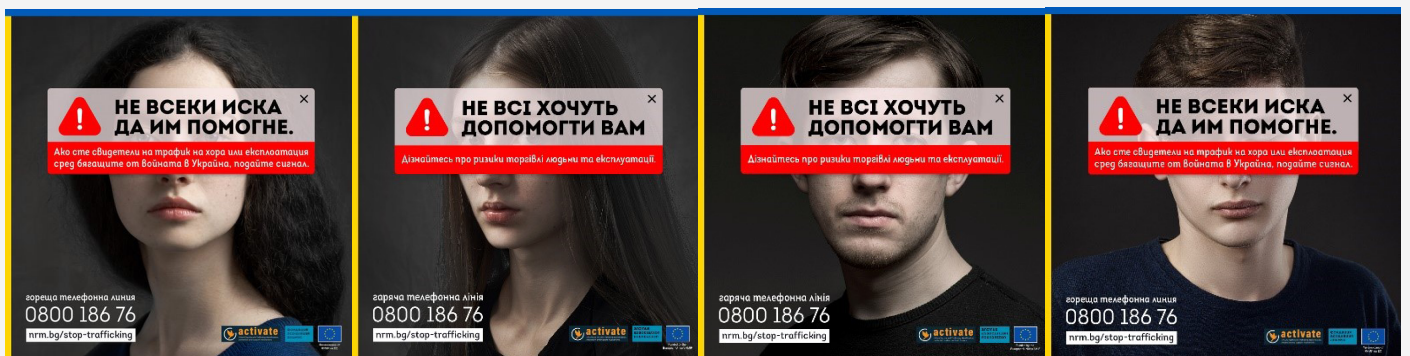
► **BULGARIA**

• Animus implemented the first specialized prevention campaign against human trafficking in Bulgaria, targeting refugees from Ukraine. It consists of social media posts, short videos, animated stickers on Telegram and posters. For the purpose of the campaign, a dedicated landing page with information on prevention of human trafficking and labour exploitation has been prepared. All materials are distributed in Ukrainian and Bulgarian. The campaign was launched on the World Day Against Trafficking of Human Beings - 30 July and will continue until the European Anti-Trafficking Day - 18 October.



• By invitation of UNICEF and UNHCR, an expert of Animus Association conducted a training on working with unaccompanied children for social workers working in specialized centers for refugees from Ukraine.

• Thanks to the project ACTIVATE - enhAnCing the anti-Trafficking Identification, preVention And support mEchanisms, the first database for victims of trafficking has been created in Bulgaria. The database is compiled based on publicly available information published by the NCCTHB and other actors involved in the implementation of the NRM. It was presented at an event organised on 18 October by the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.



The nrm.bg platform was launched within the same project. It is based on the National Mechanism for Referral and Support of Victims of Trafficking in Bulgaria. It presents the Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with adults, children and foreign nationals who are victims of trafficking. In addition, the platform has an Interactive Services Map, which makes it easy to find support services for victims of trafficking in every region of Bulgaria.



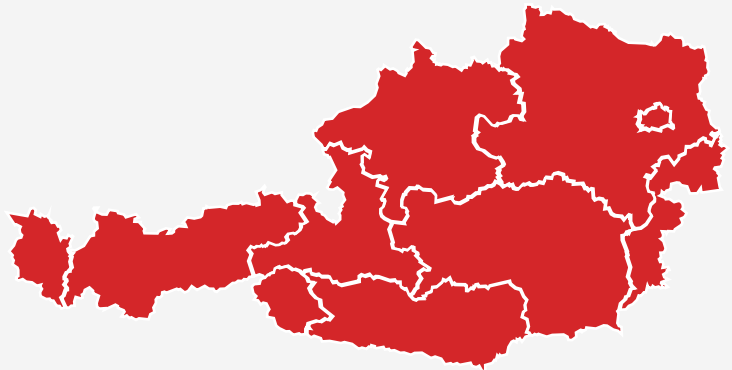
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Insights from LEFÖ-Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women in Austria

Soon after the attacks intensified, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive for the first time on 04 March 2022 due to the high number of protection seekers, enabling member states to quickly issue a residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine.

The implementation of the directive varies on the national level. In Austria, for example, third-country nationals who had a permanent residence permit in Ukraine, as well as persons with student visas and undocumented persons, are not covered by the Directive or are affected by transitional arrangements and therefore have no access to support services. This situation increases the risk of exploitation and human trafficking.



On a positive note, the activation of the Mass Influx Directive has also shown in Austria that unbureaucratic access to rights for refugees and displaced persons is possible if there is a political will to do so. Legalisation of residence that is as simple as possible, combined with direct access to the labour market and access to support services that cover basic needs, represent one of the most sustainable preventive measures against human trafficking.

At the same time, after the initial solidarity at the beginning of the war, a permanent and sustainable residence permit in Austria must now be ensured. In recent weeks, many refugees from Ukraine have found accommodation in private homes, while state registration and onward placement do not seem to follow up.

However, the “solidarity” offers of accommodation in private flats also hold a potential danger of isolation and exploitation. LEFÖ – Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women (LEFÖ-IBF) has already received cases in which exploitation in private households have taken place “in secret”. In which trafficked persons are isolated and put under pressure due to language barriers and lack of local knowledge and are forced to do household or childcare work, where promised wages are withheld or passport and travel documents are taken away.

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Access to permanent safe residence and housing is therefore essential to prevent exploitation. This is particularly challenging against the backdrop of reluctant payment of basic welfare entitlements and the low subsidy of basic welfare towards rental costs, and will put many displaced people in vulnerable positions. In addition, the savings of many will soon be consumed. At first glance, direct access to the labour market seems to make it easy to find paid work, at least for those who fall under the directive, but here, as in the housing sector, the large number of people looking for work can lead to questionable offers in which financial hardship and language barriers are deliberately exploited.

In addition to faster and more targeted measures by state institutions, training is also needed for all those agencies that have direct contact with people who have fled Ukraine, also in the sense of coordinated victim protection. This involves recognising indicators that point to human trafficking and subsequently professionally referring trafficked persons to victim protection institutions.

In the context of prevention and (self-)identification, online outreach work is an indispensable part of combating and preventing human trafficking. The success of LEFÖ-IBF's "Be Safe on the Way" campaign has shown that there is an enormous demand for prepared information tailored to the needs of the target group.

Extract from the article "Menschenhandel in Zeiten des Krieges" ("Human Trafficking in Times of War") by Isabella Chen (LEFÖ-IBF) published in *asyl aktuell* 1 2022 accessible here (in German)

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► ITALY

•On the occasion of the World Day Against Human Trafficking, Minister Bonetti confirms the government's efforts, here, the statement :Giornata mondiale contro la tratta degli esseri umani Bonetti: prosegue l'impegno del governo – 1522

•Differenza Donna launches the “Empowered women empower the world” Campaign, aimed at raising awareness and countering stereotypes and prejudices that hinder pathways to participation and access to rights for migrant women survivors of trafficking and sexual and labor exploitation. The campaign is implemented as part of the European Project “Activate - Enhancing the anti-trafficking identification, prevention and support mechanisms,” funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Join us in fighting stereotypes and prejudice against women, girls and children! Show at link: Empowered women empower the world - ACTIVATE PROJECT - YouTube



•In August 2022 DD started a new project, funded by UNHCR, named EMMA- Empowering WoMen victims of gender-based violence and traffickingv of huMan beings.

The project aims to improve the identification, the access to essential services and the overall quality of life of 80 GBV and THB survivors, with a partircular focus on Ukrainian women, to promote their empowerment, wellbeing, inclusion and independence.

•With regard to the Ukrainian situation, Differenza Donna maintains a high focus on the emergence of trafficking situations, at the same time it has taken in some women, victims of GBV, providing legal and bureaucratic counseling.

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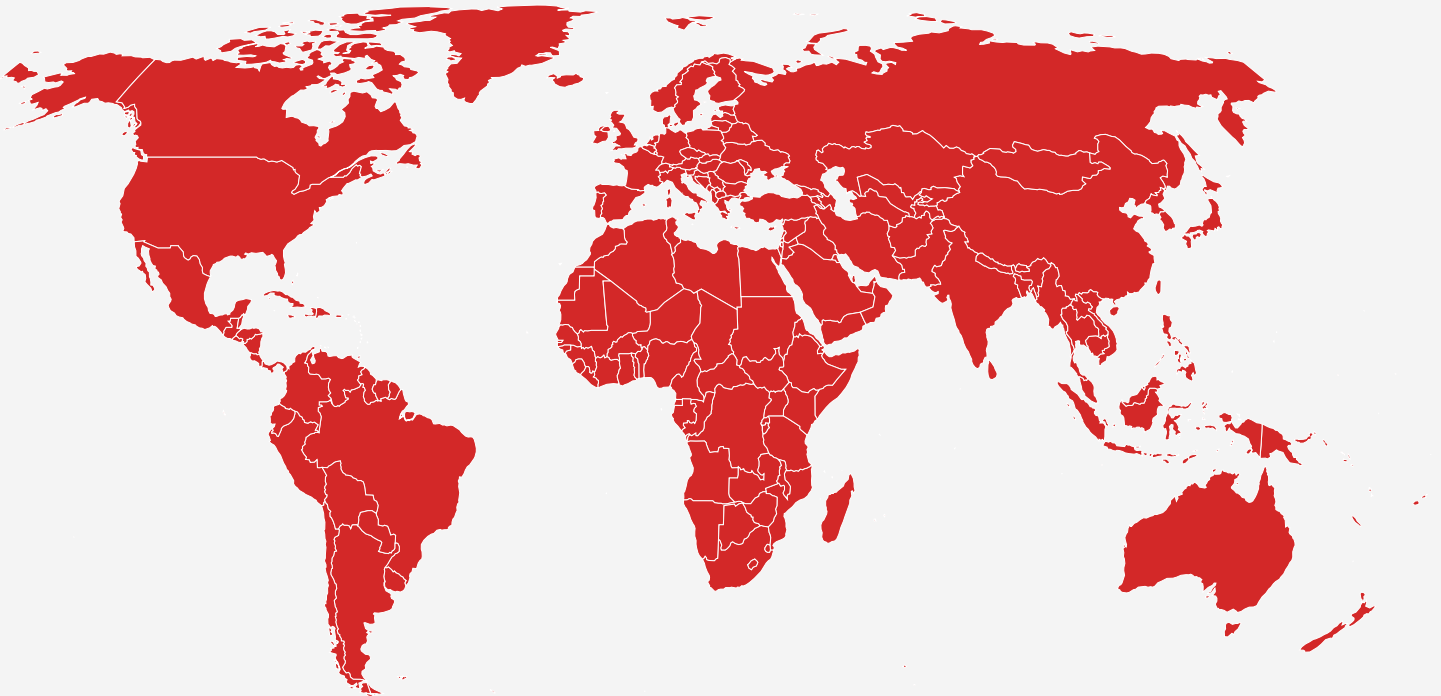
► GREECE

- As the war continues, more people have fled Ukraine to reach Greece. According to official statistics, 22,950 Ukrainian people have arrived to Greece during July. Ref: <https://migration.gov.gr/ukraine/>
- A21 is organizing the “Walk for freedom” on the 15th of October in Athens. Find more information here: <https://www.a21.org/content/walk-for-freedom-2022/gtaf8w?permcode=gtaf8w&fbclid=IwAR1yjPU0nqlKjO-7pubyx3QS3XEKoluBc53qP5KxQvpXxFC8fgpptR-5BsGk>
- New comic for children-refugees who flee Ukraine developed by A21. Find more information here: https://www.a21.org/content/ukraine-response-new/gtOb1s?permcode=gtOb1s&fbclid=IwAR1L3qpHMJU-5PnGoB2plYsdqFOSCYMrh5tWgFEFcg5CTQfOQBbRC_fgmSMY
- As part of the World Day Against Human Trafficking, which is celebrated on July 30, the organizations A21 Greece and Network for Children’s Rights organised an event aimed at informing, educating and mobilizing everyone in the fight for the elimination of human trafficking.
- What do you know about trafficking? This quiz will help you learn more! Take the quiz ☒ <https://forms.gle/mhMJmW8SuGW8Rqaq7> An interesting quiz for the public, released on the World Day Against Human Trafficking by the National Center for Social Solidarity
- KMOP, in the framework of ACTIVATE project, is planning the project’s Final Conference in Brussels (“Enhancing the anti-trafficking identification, prevention and support mechanisms”). The Conference aims at exchanging ideas towards ensuring better and more effective coordination of protection and response mechanisms against trafficking in human beings; introducing best practices in the prevention of trafficking in human beings and discuss the prevalent data, present and further disseminate relevant projects of specialised organizations to a targeted audience; and contributing to potential publication of recommendations for strengthening national and transnational cooperation among policymakers and public authorities. You can register here or find more information: <https://www.kmop.gr/news-conference-enhancing-the-anti-trafficking-identification-prevention-and-support-mechanisms>



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2022 Trafficking in Persons Report is out:

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

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