



# TOLERANT

Support Victims of Human Trafficking

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

Newsletter No 11

March 2023

**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

#### Austria | Hidden at Work – project is coming to an end

Labour and sexual exploitation and harassment of women in the (private) work sphere (REC 2014 – 2020)

With the end of 2022, the REC-Project „Hidden at Work“ was also coming to its successful end after two years of implementation.

The project activities took place in 3 EU Member states including the Netherlands, Austria and the Czech Republic as well as on European Level. The project was coordinated by **FairWork** and jointly implemented with **LEFÖ IBF in Austria**, **La Strada Czech Republic** and **La Strada International**. The project partners actively share expertise, experiences and best practices in this field with each other and with other relevant European organisations.

In Austria, LEFÖ-IBF implemented a wide range of activities with a focus on online outreach work reaching more than 26.000 persons through the Facebook page of LEFÖ, with information on human trafficking, work exploitation and the realities of being in an exploitative situation. 167 women were directly supported.

The trainings for professionals were held and informational materials were requested, including the ones produced through Hidden at Work. Over four trainings, a total of 81 professionals employed in NGOs, trade unions and educational facilities attended. Ten workshops for migrant women were organised in English, Arabic and Russian, providing information regarding labour rights in Austria and leading to the prevention and early detection of human trafficking. A total of 94 women participated in the workshops.

**Informational material** on trafficking and exploitation indicators and LEFÖ-IBFs support offer has been developed, printed and distributed country-wide. Continuous visibility is important for a process of early identification by professionals who might come in contact with trafficked women. Hence, a page was created on LEFÖ-IBFs website, providing a visual and written overview of said material's content, for easy access and ordering. A **“Help-Button”** was also created within LEFÖ-IBFs website. The button leads to 8 identical pages in 8 languages. Each offers a low threshold overview of trafficking indicators, victims' rights, LEFÖ-IBFs support offer, an easy means of contact and a quick **“EXIT-Button”** from the page.

Within the project, an **infographic** has been developed in two formats and in five of the most relevant languages for migrant workers in the private work sphere in Austria. The Infographic provides a guide to the key indicators of human trafficking, forms of exploitation and specialised support services in Austria for trafficked persons. Each indicator includes a yes/no question to facilitate the detection of potential trafficked persons and their timely referral to specialised support services – ideal for governmental or non-governmental institutions/organisations as well as self-identification by trafficked persons.

A video was created for awareness raising purposes as well as (self)identification and for use in future trainings of professionals. **CLICK HERE** to watch the video **“Broken Promises”**.

#### PROJECT PARTNERS



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

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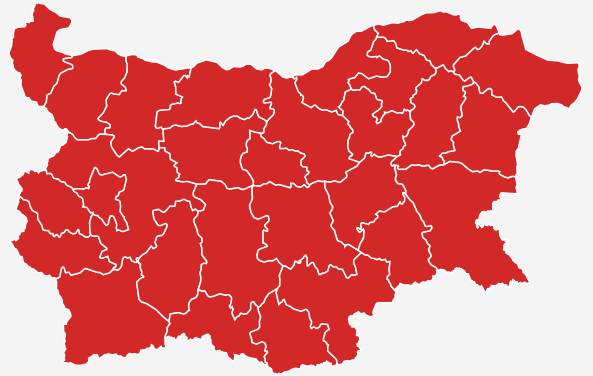
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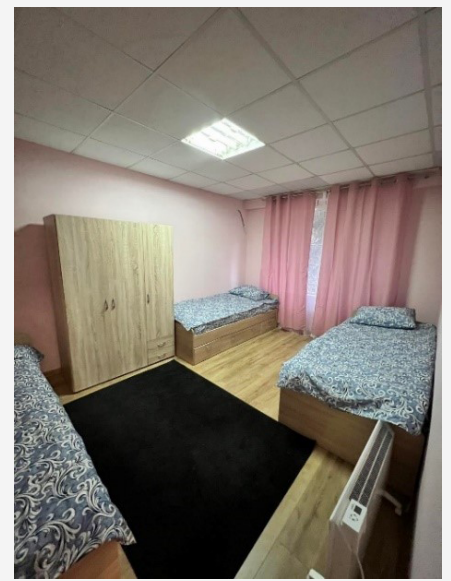
## ► BULGARIA

• “Animus Association” is happy to announce that on 15 December 2022, with the support of Sofia Municipality, a new Crisis Centre - “St. Sofia” opened in Sofia. It can accommodate 10 persons - with priority given to women and children victims of violence. The center is managed by the experienced team of “Animus Association”. “St. Sofia” Crisis Centre is another opportunity for victims of trafficking to find shelter and professional psychological and social support.



• Bulgaria is known as a country of origin of victims of trafficking. According to National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 83 men have been identified in 2021 as victims of trafficking. Men are mostly trafficked for labour exploitation. However, men are less likely to seek help or to report the crime. Support for male victims of trafficking is very poor in Bulgaria. All the services that have been established over the years are designed for women or children. In view of the great need for services for men, the Animus Association Foundation has joined the international project “SAPE - Adult Education in Victim Support: Empowering Men affected by Human Trafficking and Severe Exploitation. Exchange of Experience & Developing Recommendations”, in which we cooperate with organisations from Germany, Austria, Portugal and Romania. The aim of the project is to bring forth the integration of adult education activities and programs into the field of victim support for men affected by trafficking in human beings and severe exploitation.

The project is funded by the EU ERASMUS+ programme.



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**READ ABOUT:**

- In December 2022, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in cooperation with local commissions in the cities of Pleven, Tarnovo, Montana and Pazardjik and the Hans Seidel Foundation Bulgaria, conducted a multidisciplinary training on the topic: “Trafficking in Human Beings: Practices in Investigation and Prosecution. Judicial Process and Legal Protection. Protection and victim support.” Representatives of investigative bodies, prosecutors and judges from the four regions took part in the training.

- The Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - Varna organized a series of trainings for volunteer students and professionals on the topic “The risks of human trafficking in the digital space - prevention of challenges on the web”.

On 28 and 29.11. 2022 a two-day training for 22 volunteers was held, the aim of which was to help them to develop skills for recognition, response and prevention of human trafficking in the online space. On 30.11.2022 a training was conducted for 20 education professionals on the latest trends on human trafficking. The training aimed to increase their knowledge and skills to recognize online risks of trafficking and teach them how to respond effectively to risky situations with students on the Web.

Trainer was Ms. Antoaneta Vassileva - First Vice President of GRETA and member of Animus team.

- Lawyer Natasha Dobрева presented a case before the ECtHR, at a Council of Europe conference. The case was brought by Animus Association and on a later phase was supported by the Dignita Foundation. In November 2022, the Council of Europe held its regular meeting of lawyers representing victims of human trafficking. In 2016, the CoE set up the **Network of specialised lawyers and NGOs providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking**. They exchange experiences once every 2 years, in Strasbourg. The Network includes criminal lawyers; immigration lawyers; labour lawyers, etc. This year’s event attracted nearly 40 lawyers from 21 CoE member states. Natasha Dobрева presented a strategic case before the ECtHR, *Krachunova v Bulgaria*, complaint No 18269/18 (<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-210388>), which experts describe as a “game changer”. The case concerns the right to compensation for exploitation damages owed by the trafficker to the victim. This is the first case in which GRETA has been explicitly called by the Court as a third party= More about the case can be read here: <http://bit.ly/3uomTll>.

- Within the project “The Ukrainian Refugees Crisis: Prevention of THB”, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bulgaria, Dignita Foundation prepared an analysis of the risks of human trafficking for Ukrainian refugees in Europe. The report can be found [here](#).



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**READ ABOUT:**

## ► GREECE

KMOP actions against THB from 01.09.2022 to 31.12.2022

### **AMELIE project - Enhancing Mechanisms of identification, protection and multi-agency collaboration through transnational and multi-sectoral actors' engagement**

#### *Implemented actions*

- In September 2022 the AMELIE consortium finalised the training material, which aims to enhance identification procedures through raising awareness of health care professionals;
- KMOP organized 4 trainings to health care professionals from the Reception Service of Ministry of Migration aiming to enhance their knowledge and capacities to identify and respond to THB cases: Online on November 21st, 22nd and 25th 2022 with a total of 149 participants and face to face on December 8th and 9th with a total of 73 participants.

#### *Forthcoming actions*

- KMOP will organise 4 trainings to health care professionals from the Ministry of Health Care face to face on February 1st and 2nd 2023 and online on February 7th and 10th 2023 aiming to enhance their knowledge and capacities to identify and respond to THB cases;
- Multi-stakeholder workshops will be implemented in Greece from March 2023 aiming to strengthen collaboration models and referral mechanisms among stakeholders.



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### **READ ABOUT:**

## ► GREECE

### **ERADICATING project - Enhancing prevention and multi-agency cooperation against trafficking**

#### *Implemented actions*

- In October 2022, the ERADICATING project consortium developed training material on management of trafficking cases and a practical guide entailing the procedures for the protection of trafficked survivors;
- In November 18th 2022 in Brussels, KEMEA (coordinator of the ERADICATING project) in collaboration with the consortium, organised a joint event on issues trafficking and child sexual exploitation. The joint event included a presentation of the digital child manual which emphasises on mixed forms of minors' exploitation, highlighting the social preventative role of civil protection authorities, as well as discussion among representatives from relevant EU projects.

#### *Forthcoming actions*

- In March 2023, KEMEA (coordinator of the ERADICATING project) in collaboration with the consortium, will organise a 5 day Simulation Exercise in Athens, Greece, with participation from law enforcement agencies, labour inspectorates, NGOs, and social service providers from Greece, Bulgaria and Germany aiming to strengthen their capacity to manage trafficking and child sexual exploitation cases, and interact in a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environment.

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**READ ABOUT:**

## ► GREECE

### **WINGS – Supporting Women survivors of trafficking through a Comprehensive Integration Programme**

#### *Implemented actions between September 2022 till December 2022*

1. 12th of September 2022, KMOP hosted the International Forum with the general aim of guiding experts working with third-country national women survivors of trafficking and violence in the provision of tailored quality support. Experts from Italy, Spain, Belgium and Greece exchange their principles and methodological approaches for better labour integration of TCN women survivors of trafficking and violence and better language learning with integrated psychological support as well.
2. In previous months, the WINGS consortium developed and finalised the “WINGS Generic framework for a survivor-centred social and labour inclusion programme”
3. KMOP organised two feedback meetings with experts in order to receive feedback about the Framework
4. KMOP elaborated a detailed guide with “Guidelines for the WINGS Comprehensive Integration Support Programme”

### **TVESA – “Tightening up the Victim’s Empowering Systems in Albania @ Shkodër”**

Between September until December 2022, KMOP conducted a **needs assessment** on the professional capacities of the employees of Shkodra Municipality (Albania), with regard to the provision of social care services for victims of trafficking. In this context, were conducted **7 in-depth interviews** and **1 focus group** with the staff of Municipality of Shkodra. A **comprehensive report** with the findings of the assessment and recommendations for capacity building was prepared.

In February 2023, the project team will organise 2 workshops, to be held in the Municipality of Shkodra, in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience and ensure that Municipality staff capacity is strengthened with skills and competences related to victims’ services provision.

#### **Other news**

- The report of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking (NRM) for the first half of the year 2022 was launched. During the reporting period, the NRM management team at EKKA received and managed almost double the number of reports compared to the corresponding period of its previous years of operation (2019, 2020 and 2021). The findings largely follow the trends of previous years. Find the report **here**.
- On the occasion of the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings, EKKA, with the support of the Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Human Trafficking, organized on Tuesday 18/10/2022, an online one-hour pocket **seminar** on “Characterization Act (Legal Framework - Drafting of an Opinion)”.
- A21 in collaboration with the company Interbus promoted the Anti-Trafficking Line 1109, through an advertising campaign in mass media in Athens, to encourage citizens to anonymously report suspicions of human trafficking incidents. The information campaign lasted until the end of October. Hotline 1109 handles calls in more than 200 languages 24/7 and works with authorities to protect and identify victims of human trafficking. Please find more **here**.

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#### **READ ABOUT:**

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## ► ITALY

### Italy - Differenza donna NGO

October and November saw DD involved in several events and activities at national and European level, in the context of EU-funded projects:

- The partner meeting of the AMIF project “Amelie” took place in Bonn on October 5. Aims of the project are the strengthening of the role of health professionals in facilitating the emergence of trafficking and enabling survivors to come out of invisibility. [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02zt-K9LSzdLXpXQ5TiNts3XHugsUyHxbQTZ-Pq6bC7zSxf5HaCWhFMbQpvB8nuAf45n-l&id=100070249264302](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02zt-K9LSzdLXpXQ5TiNts3XHugsUyHxbQTZ-Pq6bC7zSxf5HaCWhFMbQpvB8nuAf45n-l&id=100070249264302)
- In the framework of the REC project “MIRIAM”, on October 14th, Differenza Donna participated in a seminar at the University of Verona entitled “The Integration of Migrant Women Coming Out of Violence.”
- On the occasion of the European Day Against Human Trafficking DD re-launched the online awareness raising campaign to combat stereotypes and prejudices against women and girls survivors of trafficking. The campaign was carried out as part of the “Activate” project <https://fb.watch/ia9quuFIUM/> **Activate – EnhAnCing the anti-Trafficking Identification, preVention and support mEchanisms (activateproject.eu)**
- The final conference of the European Project “MIRIAM,” aimed at supporting migrant women coming out of violence, with a strong focus on victims of sexual exploitation, domestic violence and forced marriage, was held on November 9 at the European Parliament. **Oggi siamo a Bruxelles per... - Associazione Differenza Donna | Facebook**
- On November 30th, DD participated in the national conference of the European Project “Miriam, Migrant Women Free from Violence” at the University of Bologna.



On the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day, many awareness-raising events were held throughout the country <https://www.osservatoriointerventitratta.it/16-giornata-europea-contro-la-tratta-2022/>

During the World Day Against Violence Against Women, there were several activities involving DD in events, conventions/conferences, and press conferences. At each of these events, DD carried out the fight against gender-based violence, including trafficking in human beings.

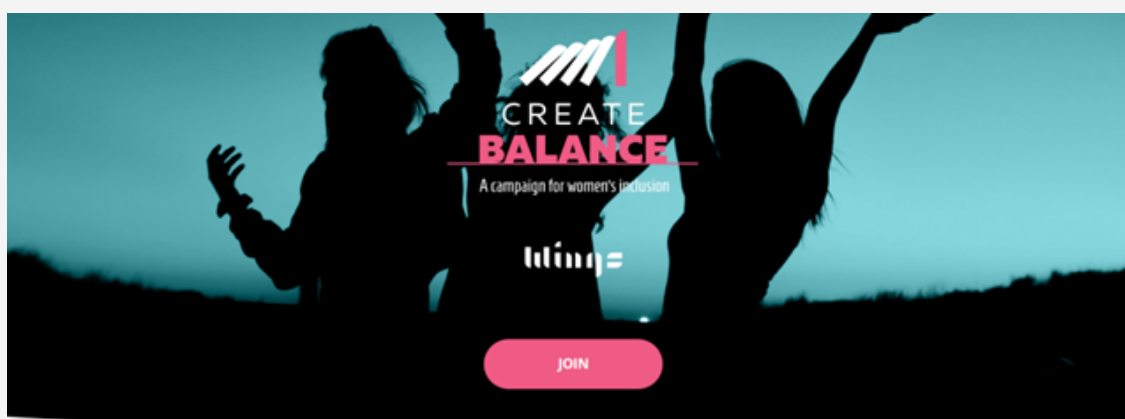
In December, the annual Differenza Donna AWARD took place. During the event DD celebrated and awarded figures from institutions, activism, business, art and culture committed to combating violence against women. A special emphasis was given to the Ukrainian and Iranian situation; two activists and operator who have been working with DD for many years, were awarded for all Ukrainian and Iranian women who are struggling. <https://www.facebook.com/ongdifferenzadonna/posts/pfbid02RH-FVRqxB34BTxZb9KLeiyhWuFT7enTNnJ4Zn9WHbM1eH8ijZfCtm96zCourrmSJl>

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### READ ABOUT:

## ▶ ITALY

### CESIE - Italy



The **CREATE BALANCE** campaign developed as a part of WINGS project aims to facilitate the social-economic integration of third-country national women in vulnerable situations. WINGS provides them with language courses, psychological support, tailored employment counselling and labour integration opportunities.

Business sector plays a crucial role in supporting vulnerable groups, promoting the participation of women and enhancing gender balance, therefore we need your help to create a more balanced society.

#### **Why shall I join?**

Providing a job/internship placement contributes to the economic and social development of society and allows individuals to fulfil their basic needs.

#### **Does joining the campaign cost money?**

Effective business inclusion policies are an investment, not a cost. Therefore, the participation in the programme is for free. Of course, your company has to follow national employment laws and fulfill its obligations.

#### **What are the benefits of a diverse and inclusive workplace for business?**

Your business has a much higher chance of growing with a more diverse group. Stronger team morale More positive workplace atmosphere More productive and engaged employees Higher employee retention and loyalty A larger, more diverse recruitment talent pool Stronger resilience and ability to adapt to change

#### **How do I join the campaign?**

By providing a job/internship placement to women who are participating in WINGS programme.

#### **Do you want to know more?**

Join us for the Info-Day online organised in March 2023.

During the events in different countries, we will briefly present the initiative and its CREATE BALANCE campaign, and we will explore the potential involvement of employers in the internships that might be offered to migrant women starting from September 2023.

Visit: <https://socialhut.eu/createbalance/> or contact: [justice@cesie.org](mailto:justice@cesie.org)

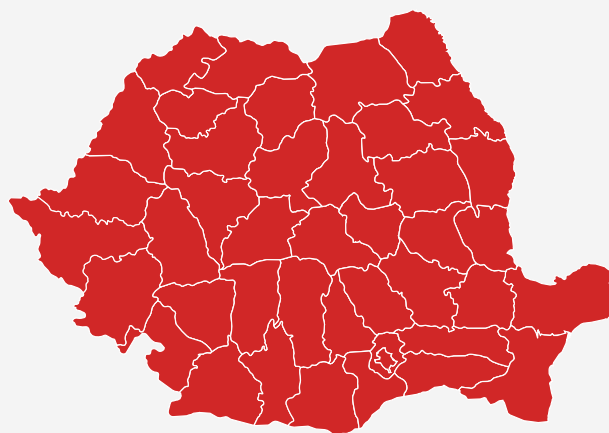
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#### **READ ABOUT:**



## ► ROMANIA

- In partnership with UNHCR, IOM and local NGOs with large experience in providing help for the refugees, AIDRom teams continue to be in the first line, helping the Ukrainian refugees with accommodation places, social services and legal and psychological counselling



### **More than 6000 people received food packages and social assistance:**

3,000+ people have benefited from individual and group legal advice

**3,000+ refugees** received social vouchers.

**1,000+ children** received special products for children and babies.

1,000+ people benefited from legal support in order to access their legal rights

500+ people benefited from support in order to identify a job

More Information on: **[www.aidrom.ro](http://www.aidrom.ro)**

- Also, together with ANITP, the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons and the Romanian Police, AIDRom carried out information campaigns on the prevention of human trafficking at the headquarters of the Refugee Center in Radauti, Galati and in Timisoara.

- In January 2023, the Government adopted the Referral mechanism for the identification of victims of THB

During the Government meeting, the new national identification and reference mechanism was approved.

- The members of **ProTECT**, of which AIDRom is a member, have actively contributed in the last year to the development of this new mechanism by participating in intense debates and multiple work meetings in order to complete and improve the previous mechanism. Some of our proposals can be found in this Project, proposals that bring necessary changes from the point of view... **[https://traficdepersoane.ro/.../Pozitie\\_ProTECT\\_MNIR-2.pdf](https://traficdepersoane.ro/.../Pozitie_ProTECT_MNIR-2.pdf)**

- Some of the TOLERANT partners continue to work together in the anti-trafficking programs through a new project financed by the EU Commission. The organization CESIE in partnership with AIDRom, Animus Association and other 4 organizations will start soon the project "Safe Hunt".

- The Romanian Government delivered the Progress report in the fight against Trafficking in human beings **[https://gov.ro/fisiere/stiri\\_fisiere/RAPORT\\_TP.pdf](https://gov.ro/fisiere/stiri_fisiere/RAPORT_TP.pdf)**



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