

REPORT

PROJECT CHANCE AND CHALLENGE-IMPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Change and Challenge Improve social services provided to victims of human trafficking, is a transnational project financed through EEA Grants 2009-2014, NGO Fund in Romania, its implementation started in May 2014 and will end in March 2016, under the coordination of the Romanian NGO Association Pro Refugiu and its Norwegian and Romanian partners (Norway-Pro Sentret Organization; Romania-Association Global Help, Foundation People to People, East European Institute for Reproductive Health., General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection from counties Dâmbovița, Mures, Satu Mare, Salaj, Sibiu, Galati, Bacău, Iasi, Teleorman).

Human trafficking is one of the most profitable organized crimes. This phenomenon represents a flagrant violation of human rights, affecting annually millions of people worldwide. Romania is mainly a country of origin and transit for the victims of human trafficking. Annually, the Romanian citizens represent a substantial percentage of the total number of trafficking victims identified in Europe. Among the most common forms of exploitation there are the sexual exploitation, forced labor, forced begging. Over the years among the countries of destination there have been included states such as Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, but in the recent years, the number of Romanian exploited citizens increased in countries like Norway, Sweden, Denmark.

Through this project Association Pro Refugiu alongside its Norwegian and Romanian partners are approaching several current issues: low level quality of assistance services for victims of human trafficking; low role of the non-governmental organizations as social service providers due to limited human/material/financial resources; lack of sustainable cooperation between organizations and institutions from Romania as origin country and the ones from Norway as destination country for Romanian citizens subjected to various forms of exploitation (such as sexual/labor exploitation, forced begging).

In order for the Romanian social assistance system to be improved is quite relevant to have the opportunity to learn about the practices from other countries where the services are provided to higher standards. The solid expertise of Pro Sentret organization represents a very positive aspect in understanding the Norwegian social services system for victims of human trafficking and in identifying best practices that can be transferred and adapted in the Romanian system as well.

This actual report is presenting the main activities implemented successfully from May 2014 until May 2015.

- **MAPPING THE SOCIAL NEEDS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ROMANIA AND NORWAY**

The result of this complex activity was a transnational report *Support Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in Romania and Norway*.



The report consists of 5 chapters: *Chapter I Statistics* provides detailed information on the number of victims of human trafficking, their forms of exploitation in Romania and Norway in 2012-2014. *Chapter II Legislation on protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking* includes information on key legislation in the two countries that contain relevant regulations support services that victims should have the right to, during the rehabilitation/reintegration into society. *Chapter III Support services for the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking* comprises a detailed analysis of the support services that are provided in practice by the authorities and non-governmental organizations in the two countries. *Chapter IV Case management* in Romania and Norway. *Chapter V Recommendations for improving the support services for victims of human trafficking.*

The study is based on a qualitative and quantitative methodology focused on two components: Desk research - analysis of relevant legislation and documents from Romania and Norway. Data collecting through a complex questionnaire applied to authorities, non-governmental organizations that provide assistance to victims in the two countries.

The report was launched in November 2014 in a conference organized in Bucharest to which attended representatives of the Norwegian partner organization Pro Sentret alongside various Romanian stakeholders with active role in fight against human trafficking and victims' assistance (National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Agency for Labor, National Authority for Child Protection, Ministry of Justice-The Probation Department, lawyers from Bucharest Bar, General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child

Protection from Bucharest and from several other Romanian counties, NGOs such as Association Global Help, Foundation People to People, East European Institute for Reproductive Health, Association Generație Tânără, Association Betania.

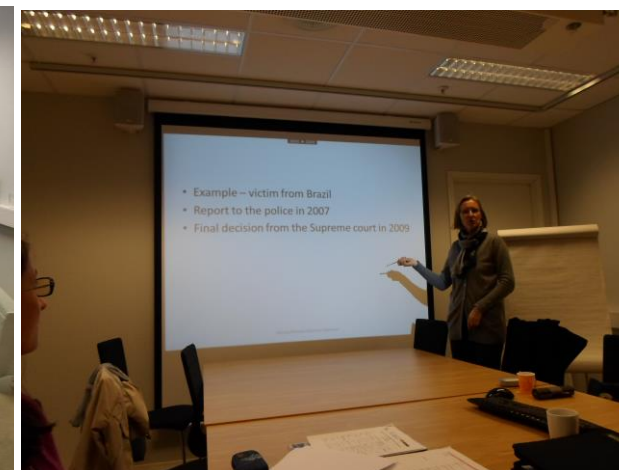


In the first half of 2015 were organized and implemented a study visit in Norway and a training in Romania for social workers and psychologists from NGOs and General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection.

- STUDY VISIT IN NORVEGIA

The event took place at the beginning of May 2015 having as participants staff, experts from Association Pro Refugiu.





The event was a good opportunity for the Romanian specialists to obtain relevant information on how the assistance system for victims of human trafficking is functioning in Norway. The visit was implemented with the support of Pro Sentret Organization which facilitated to the Romanian team various meetings with other relevant Norwegian stakeholders (Lauras Hus a shelter for victims; Red Cross, KOM police department with active role in fight against trafficking, Fafo a research institute with expertise on studies linked to human trafficking, Child Protection Authority, lawyers specialized in victims' assistance).

TRAINING IN ROMANIA

The information obtained during the study visit was inserted in a **Manual “Knowledge and skills in assisting victims of human trafficking”** used during the training organized in Bucharest at the end of May 2015.



In the manual are approached aspects linked to identification and referral procedures, assistance for victims' reintegration, code of conduct for staff in NGOs and institutions, mentoring and peer-to-peer support for victims of human trafficking during their reintegration process in society, the outreach program.

The publication was delivered to the general directorates of social assistance and child protection from all the Romanian counties, to non-governmental organizations, to National Agency against Trafficking in Persons.

The research report and the training manual can be also found on the **project's website** <http://project-chance.prorefugiu.org>.

Information about the project and its activities were disseminated to various Norwegian stakeholders with the support of Pro Sentret Organization and was also inserted on the <http://www.ngonorway.org> with the support of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

For further additional information concerning project's activities, its publications, please contact the coordinator organization Association Pro Refugiu www.prorefugiu.org, office@prorefugiu.org