

ROMANIA



**MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND ADMINISTRATION
REFORM**

NATIONAL AGENCY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

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T R A F F I C K I N G I N P E R S O N S
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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ADPARE	Association for the Development of Alternative Practices of Reintegration and Education
AidRom	Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania
ANITP	National Agency against Trafficking in Persons
ANPDC	National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights
ANES	National Agency for Gender Equality
ANOFM	National Agency of Employment
AJOFM	County Agency of Employment
ANPF	National Agency for Family Protection
ANR	Roma National Agency
BCCO	Organized Crime Squad
CCPI	International Police Cooperation Center
CEOP	Child Exploitation & Online Protection Center
DGASPC	Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection
DIICOT	Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorist Offences
DGCCO	Directorate General for Countering Organized Crime
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
EVD	Dutch Agency for International Cooperation
GIL	Inter-ministerial Group to coordinate and evaluate prevention of and fight against trafficking in persons
GLA	Gangmasters Licensing Authority
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IGJR	Inspectorate General of the Romanian Gendarmerie
IGPF	Inspectorate General of Border Police
IGPR	Inspectorate General of the Romanian Police
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPJ	County Police Inspectorate
ISJ	County School Inspectorate
KLPD	Netherlands Police Agency
MAE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MAp	Ministry of National Defence
MATRA	“The Dutch for social transformation” – the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs program
MIRA	Ministry of the Interior and Administration Reform
MJ	Ministry of Justice
MMFES	Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
IOM / OIM	International Organization for Migration
ONG	Non-governmental organization

OCRTEH	Office Central pour la Répression de la Traite des Êtres Humains
ONPM	National Office of Witness Protection
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PATRIR	Romanian Institute for Peace Research and Training
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
SNITP	National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010
UKHTC	United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
UNO/ONU	United Nations Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

According to a study conducted in 2006, the latest Trafficking in Persons Report released by US Department of State¹ estimates that, *„each year, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, which does not include millions trafficked within their own countries”*.

The International Labour Office, a United Nations specialized structure, states in its 2005 report that, worldwide *„the estimated minimum number of persons in forced labour at a given time as a result of trafficking is 2.45 million”*².

In its turn, UNICEF underlines that *“at international level as many as 1.2 million children are smuggled across borders or trafficked within countries every year”*³.

Estimates on the magnitude of the phenomenon in Europe are even less numerous. In most of the cases, these estimates refer to the late 1990s and the methodologies used for calculation are not clearly defined.

Thus, according to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)⁴, it is suggested, *“only from Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States an estimated 175,000 women and children were trafficked primarily to other OSCE countries”*.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)⁵ suggests that *“an estimated 300,000 women would be affected {by trafficking} every year”*.

According to data submitted by the European Commission⁶, at the beginning of the millennium *“approximately 120,000 women and children are trafficked into the European Union every year”*.

Though, sometimes the data on the numbers of trafficked victims show great variations from one country to another and an estimate based on a methodology unitarily

¹Trafficking in Persons Report 2008, U.S. Department of State, June 2008.

²A global alliance against forced labour, Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference - 93rd Session, Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005.

³Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director, United Front for Children: Global Efforts to Combat Sexual Trafficking in Travel and Tourism Conference, University Minnesota, April 2006.

⁴Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – Office for Democratic Institution and Human Rights, Proposed Action Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Warsaw, 1999.

⁵Analysis of Data and Statistical Resources Available in the EU Member States on Trafficking in Humans, Particularly Women and Children for the Purposes of Sexual Exploitation, IOM, Geneva, 1998.

⁶Trafficking in Women: The Misery behind the Fantasy: From Poverty to Sex Slavery - A Comprehensive European Strategy, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels, March 2001.

accepted by specialists in the field continues to be needed, it confirms an extremely worrying reality: trafficking in persons is above all suffering, too many human tragedies and lives destroyed at the benefit of the traffickers.

As regards our country, trafficking in persons has been maintained as one of the priority problems for the Romanian Government in 2007 as well.

Despite the fact that, according to official statistics, the size of the phenomenon is being maintained at alarming rates, the phenomenon continues its downward trend, visible since 2006, when the number of identified victims amounted to 2500.

The implementation for the first time of the National Interest Program (PIN 2007) “Improving the protection and assistance activities for victims of trafficking”, bringing into full operation of the National Database on Victims of Trafficking, the development of the project for the Coordination of victims /witnesses in trials against their traffickers, the national prevention campaigns, the setting out of National Standards for assistance services provided to trafficking victims or the provision of training on trafficking in persons associated risks for both Romanian forces operating in areas of conflict beyond the national borders and American troops based in Dobrogea, are just a few of the achievements carried out by institutions and organizations involved in the prevention of and fight against trafficking in persons.

The US Department of State Report, previously mentioned, appreciates the progress Romania made in 2007, particularly in the field of prevention of trafficking and victim assistance. The Report mentions about the efforts sustained by our country to financially support NGOs assisting victims of trafficking. In the same context, the National Database on trafficking in persons, created and managed by the Agency, is mentioned among the four worldwide examples of best practices for other countries⁷.

At the same time, the Report draws the attention upon the fact that the results in the field of prosecution did not improve and recommendations are made concerning the increase of investigations, particularly in cases of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour and possible complicity of government officials, adequate convictions for traffickers, development of a national victim identification and referral mechanism and training of the police with a view to identify victims and treat them accordingly.

⁷“**Romania: National Database Aids Rapid Response to Emerging TIP Trends** - The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) created a centralized national database for law enforcement personnel to input data on individual trafficking victims. This compilation of information, which includes roughly 100 data fields for each victim and is processed at ANITP headquarters in Bucharest, is crucial for identifying and quickly responding to emerging trends in trafficking. Through the use of the database, ANITP was the first to identify an increase in labour trafficking of Romanians to the Czech Republic, and disseminate the information to law enforcement and policy officials. The national database is an effective tool for targeting trafficking trends and serves as a model for other countries.” - *Commendable Initiatives Around the World*, Trafficking in Persons Report 2008, U.S. Department of State, p. 39, 2008.

The present report shows the findings of an elaborate analysis on the situation of trafficking in Romania in 2007. For the first time the information used in drawing up the report has been supplied by the National Database on trafficking.

ANITP has produced this report based on its own data and information as well as those provided by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration Reform, public institutions and non-governmental organizations involved in the prevention of and fight against trafficking in persons.

We take this opportunity to convey our thanks to all our partners for their support in writing this report.

National Agency against Trafficking in Persons

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Chapter 1 provides an analysis of the magnitude of the trafficking in persons phenomenon in 2007 related to the main indicators supplied by the centralized database on victims of trafficking. The analysis focuses on the situation of victims identified throughout the year in terms of the socio-demographic factors (gender, age, schooling, area of origin) and the characteristics of their involvement in the reported situation (recruitment methods, relationship with the recruiters, destination countries, forms of exploitation, time of entry into trafficking, exploitation period).

The chapter then separately describes the categories of female, male and child victims of both international and internal trafficking, as well as the profiling of the two major forms of exploitation, forced labour and sexual. A clear situation of victims in comparison with the main destination countries (Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic and Romania for internal trafficking) is also contained in this first chapter.

Chapter 2 deals with **The national integrated system to monitor and assess the trafficking phenomenon**, which became operational in January 2007; it is a centralized database on trafficking issues, which supplied most of the data contained in this report.

Chapter 3 outlines the **Amendments to the trafficking legislation** made in 2007 with particular reference to Emergency Ordinance 113/2007 to amend Law 211/2004 concerning measures to ensure protection to victims of crime and legal drafts initiated by ANITP, both approved and pending approval.

Chapter 4 describes the efforts made in **Preventing trafficking in persons** and materialized in national and local campaigns and training sessions for specialists in the field..

Chapter 5 – Combating trafficking in persons addresses the phenomenon from a judicial perspective, emphasis being place on the evolution of the criminal phenomenon and its characteristics in the period under review, as well as on the victim participation in trial and investigations into trafficking in persons offences. Relevant aspects in the field of judicial cooperation and inter-institutional cooperation within the framework of the “Victim/Witness in Trial Coordination” project are also presented.

Chapter 6 deals with the basic elements of activities in the field of **Victim protection, assistance and social reintegration**, respectively the National Integrated System for Victim Identification and Referral, National Standards of Victim Assistance Services, the **National Interest Program “Improving victim protection and assistance activities”**, as well as the contribution of social governmental and non-governmental actors, including foreign organizations and authorities.

Chapter 7 outlines the monitoring and assessment activity of the Inter-ministerial Working Group and its significant contribution to the **Inter-institutional Cooperation** in the field of trafficking in persons and assistance provided to such victims. This

contribution has been effected into collaborative protocols, cooperation plans and partnership agreements with various institutions, directions and NGOs, as well as the restructuring of regional inter-institutional anti-trafficking teams required by a complex approach of the phenomenon at local levels. Sub-chapter 7.2 deals with professional training modalities and the categories of specialists who received trafficking in persons related training.

Chapter 8 – Trafficking in persons and the media provides an analysis on how trafficking issues are covered in print and audiovisual media and the receptivity of the audience towards such problems. The chapter gives concise data regarding the number of publications, modalities to approach the subject in the print media, number and type of audiovisual broadcasts, press conferences and thematic public debates.

Chapter 9 – International cooperation in the field of prevention of trafficking and assistance provided to victims outlines the efforts of collaboration with public or private authorities in the main European countries of destination for Romanian victims; activities to obtain external non-reimbursable funds; projects proposed, approved or under implementation and partner countries; cooperation with non-EU countries and international organizations; Romania's participation in regional and international meetings, study visits, conferences and reunions.

Chapter 10 The final chapter in the report provides **recommendations** to improve the activities carried out by state institutions and partner organizations, national and international, with a view to reduce the magnitude of the phenomenon and socially reintegrate trafficking victims.

1.1. The dynamics of the phenomenon in 2007

Trafficking in human beings has acquired lately the size and features of a social transnational phenomenon, responsible for thousands of human dramas and devastating sufferings for victims of labour or sexual exploitation or any other form; at the same time, trafficking in human beings has become a trans-border organized crime phenomenon which represents a serious crime punishable by the criminal justice in many countries.

During 2007 Romania continued to remain a country of origin for trafficking but the downward trend of the phenomenon, also noticeable in 2006, has been maintained. Thus, the total number of victims identified in 2007 is of **1780**⁸, lower than the number of victims (2285) identified in 2006. (fig.1); of these 726 were in a trafficking situation since 2007 while the rest had been involved in trafficking earlier and identified in 2007.

Of the total victims, 3 were re-trafficked and identified as such in the centralized database on victims of trafficking. In addition to these, during the interviews conducted by specialized structures of law enforcement, 110 victims stated that they had been re-trafficked, but the figure can not be validated as, on the one hand it relies exclusively on the victims' statements, and, on the other hand, the centralized data base has been operating since January 2007, while the victimization situations had been reported prior to this date.

In 2007, no cases of trafficking involving foreign victims were reported on the Romanian territory.

⁸ In June 2008, the US Department of State released the Annual TIP Report. The report refers to 1662 victims identified by the Romanian authorities in the year under review. The difference between the total number of identified victims (1780) and the figures in the US Department of State TIP report results from the introduction of 118 in the ANITP centralized data base as reported and subsequently confirmed by specialized police and border police structures during December 2007 and July 2008.

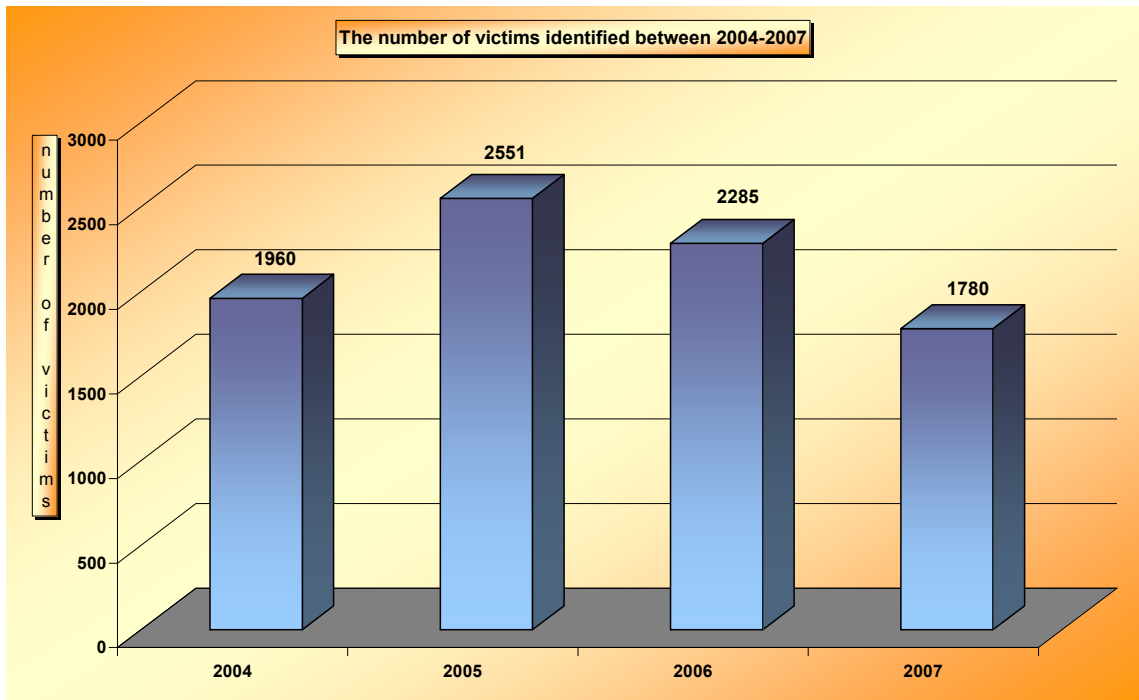


Fig. 1 Evolution in number of victims identified between 2004 and 2007.

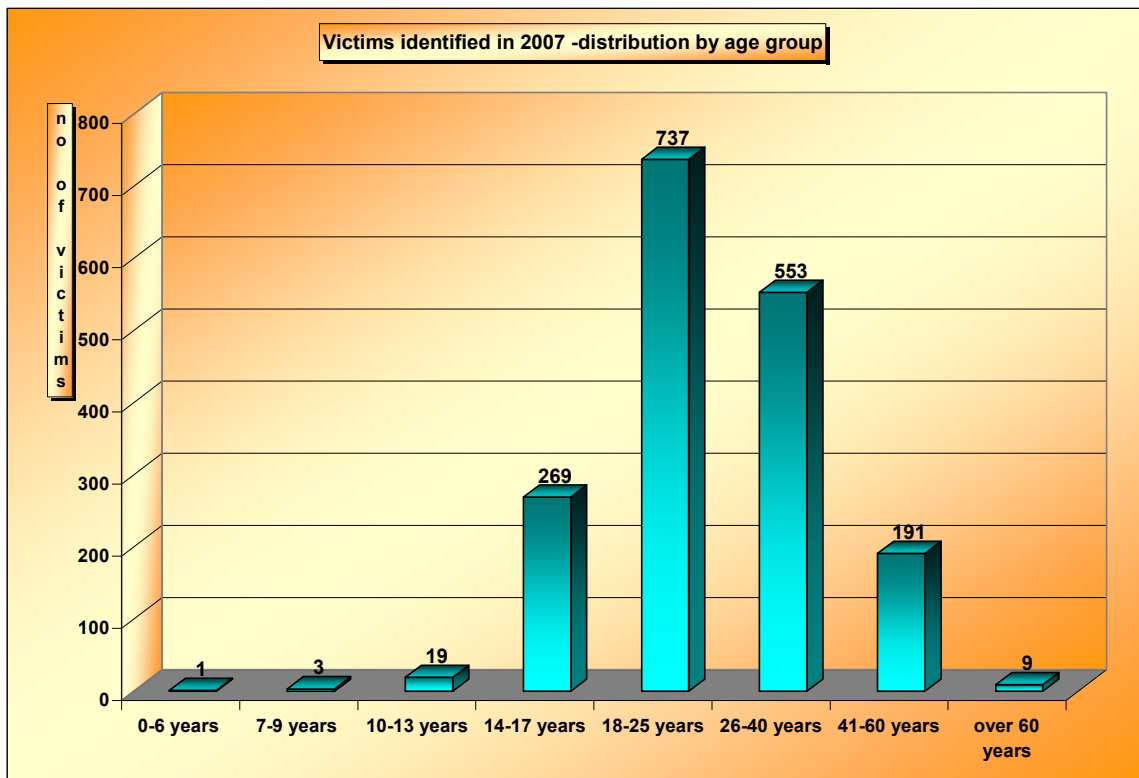


Fig. 2 Reporting of victims identified in 2007 by age group.

As regards the reporting by *age group*⁹, victims age **18 -25** account for the most numerous group of victimized population -**737** respectively **41%** of the total of identified victims in 2007.(fig.2)

The next category, relevant in size, is represented by victims age **26 - 40**, respectively **553** victims (**31%**). The ever more significant share of victims trafficked for labour, generally over 25, is a contributing factor (fig.3). Another 200 victims are over 41 years of age (**11%** of the total of identified victims).

In this way, **84%** of the identified victims are **adults** while the rest of them, **16%** (292 victims) are **minors** (the great majority- 92% - in the 14 - 17 age category).

In relation to the distribution of victims by the county of residence, Mures, Teleorman and Botosani, with a reported number of victims of 100 in each county, followed by Constanta, Brasov, Dolj, Arges, Neamt, Iasi, Ialomita, Mehedinti, Bihor, Prahova, Braila, Olt and Cluj, where the reported number of victims ranges between 50 and 100, are the main counties of origin (fig.4); for the rest of the counties, the number varies between 6 (Ilfov) and 47 (Vaslui). It can be ascertained that **the trafficking in persons phenomenon is evident throughout the regions of the country** by various intensities.

The crosscut analysis regarding the distribution of victims with reference to the **historical regions** in Romania (fig.5), indicates that the historical regions originating the highest number of victims are as follows:

- *Southern Muntenia* (covering the counties of Argeş, Călăraşi, Dâmboviţa, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Prahova and Teleorman), with **387** victims (**22%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007);
- *North-Eastern Region* (covering the counties of Bacău, Botoşani, Neamţ, Iaşi, Suceava and Vaslui) with **342** victims (**19%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007);
- *Central Region* (covering the counties of Alba, Braşov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureş and Sibiu) with **277** victims (**16%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007);
- *South-Eastern Region* (covering the counties of Galaţi, Vrancea, Buzău, Brăila, Tulcea, Constanţa) with **251** victims (**14%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007);

⁹ The data in the present report refer to the victims' age at the moment the trafficking started. The difference between the number of identified victims and the total for the age indicator results from the re-trafficking cases.

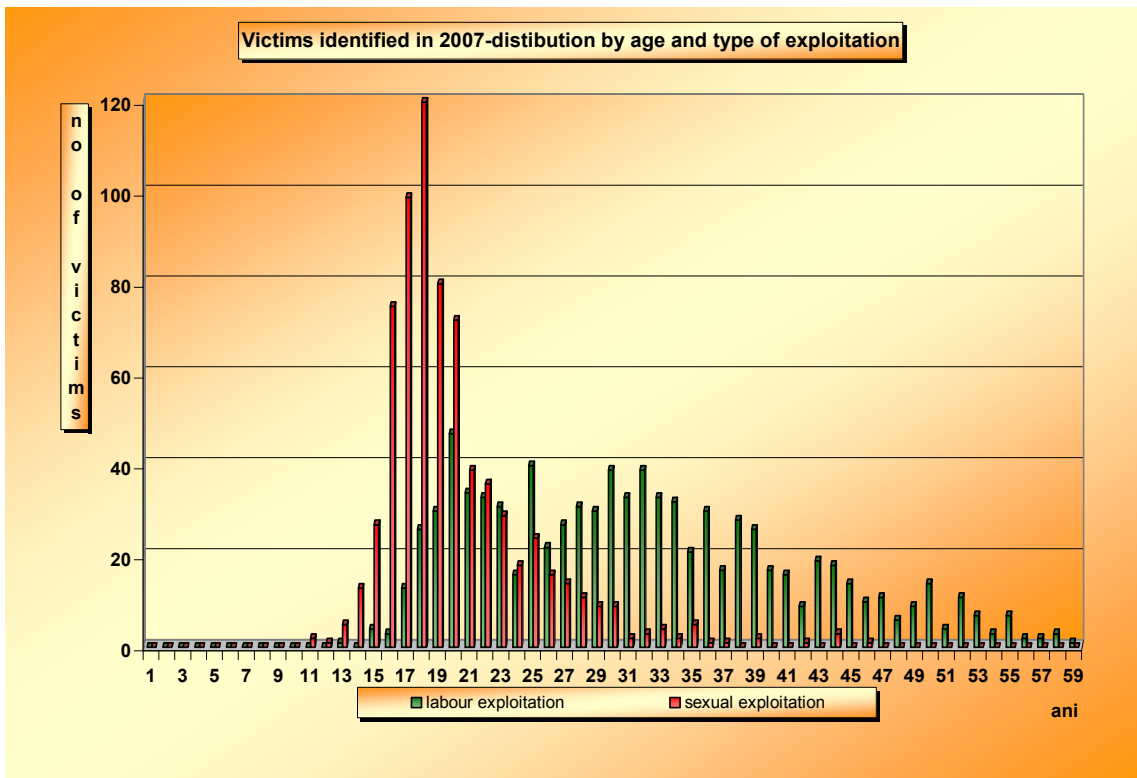


Fig. 3 Reporting of victims exploited for labour and supply of sexual services by age (age in years reached at the time of the exploitation)

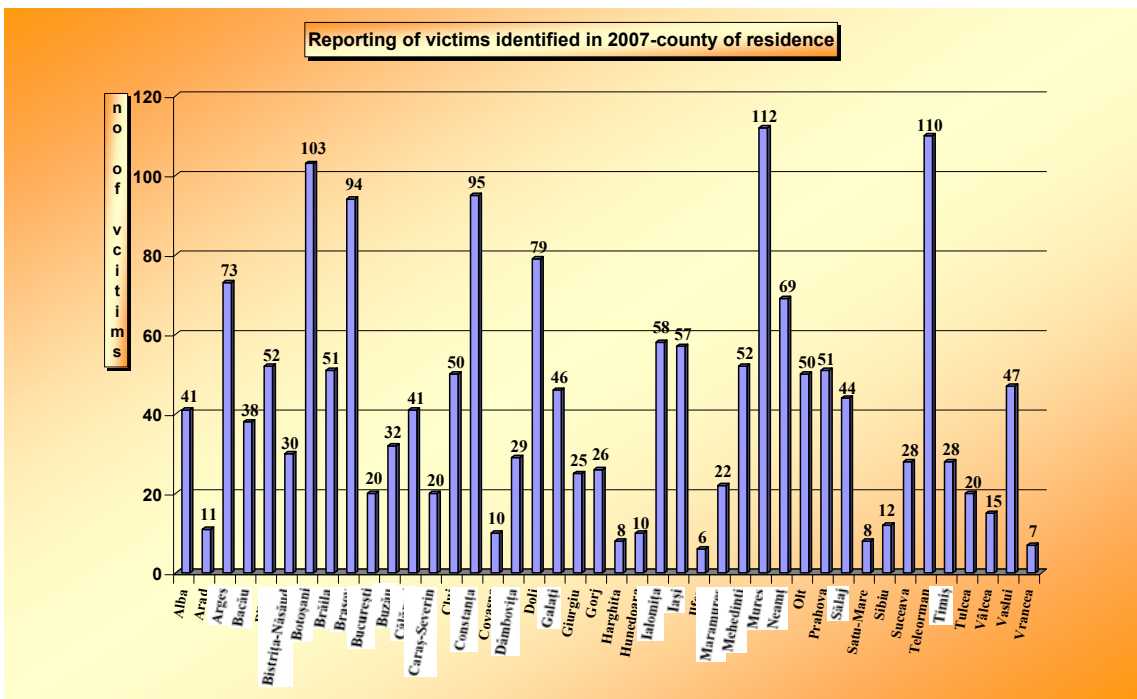


Fig. 4. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 by county of residence.

- South-Western Oltenia (covering the counties of Dolj, Olt, Valcea, Mehedinți and Gorj) with **222** victims (**12%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007);
- North-Western Region (covering the counties of Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu-Mare and Sălaj) with **206** victims (**12%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007).

The other two historical regions maintain a lower percentage:

- Western Region (covering the counties of Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara and Timiș) with **69** victims (**4%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007);
- Bucharest – Ilfov Region (covering the areas of Ilfov county and the municipality of Bucharest) with **26** victims (only **1%** of the total number of victims identified in 2007).

In relation to the **destination countries** of trafficking (fig.6), **Italy** (**469** victims, **26%** of the total number) and **Spain** (**458** victims, **25%**) maintain the highest figures in 2007 as well, accounting for more than half of the identified victims.

In 2007, the **Czech Republic** (**242** victims – 13%) and Greece (**189** victims – 11%) represented a special case due to the fast increase in the number of victims of labour exploitation and **Germany** (**92** victims) continued to be a main destination country for Romanian victims of trafficking.

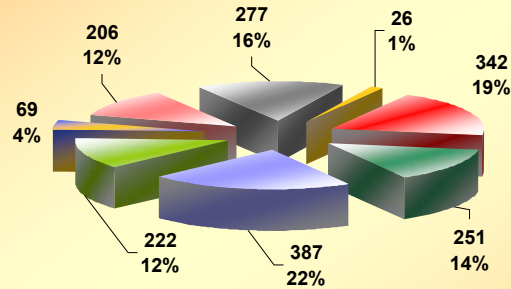
At the same time, for the period under review, 207 victims, all Romanian nationals, were identified in **Romania** (internal trafficking¹⁰).

Mention should be made that **33** victims were trafficked in two or several countries, and the present statistics include each of the experienced trafficking situations (therefore, if the total number of identified victims is 1780, the total of exploitation situations is accordingly higher, that is 1818).

In terms of **gender** (fig.7), female victims, respectively **960** of the total victims account for **54%** of the victimized population, compared with 75% in the previous year (1701 of a total of 2285). This can be justified partly by the increase in the number of victims exploited for forced labour who are mainly males.

¹⁰ Internal trafficking is defined as trafficking within the Romanian borders

Reporting of victims identified in 2007- development regions



- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Nord - Est: Bacău, Botoșani, Neamț, Iași, Suceava și Vaslui
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Sud-Est: Galați, Vrancea, Buzău, Brăila, Tulcea, Constanța
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Sud Muntenia: Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova și Teleorman
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Sud-Vest Oltenia: Dolj, Olt, Vâlcea, Mehedinți și Gorj
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Vest: Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara și Timiș
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Nord-Vest: Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare și Sălaj
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare Centru: Alba, Brașov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureș și Sibiu
- Regiunea de Dezvoltare București-Ilfov: București, Ilfov

Fig..5. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 by region.

Reporting of victims identified in 2007 - destination country* (*includes the situation of victims exploited in more than one country)

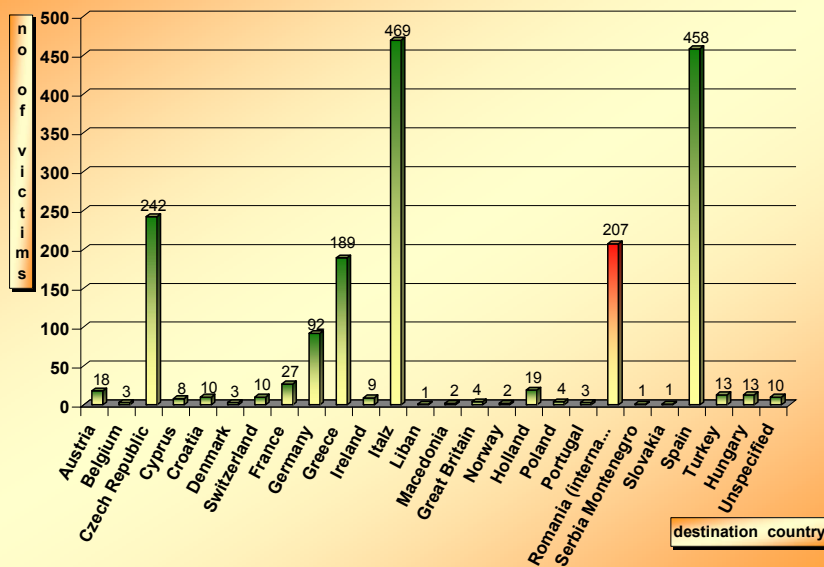


Fig. 6. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 according to the country of destination.

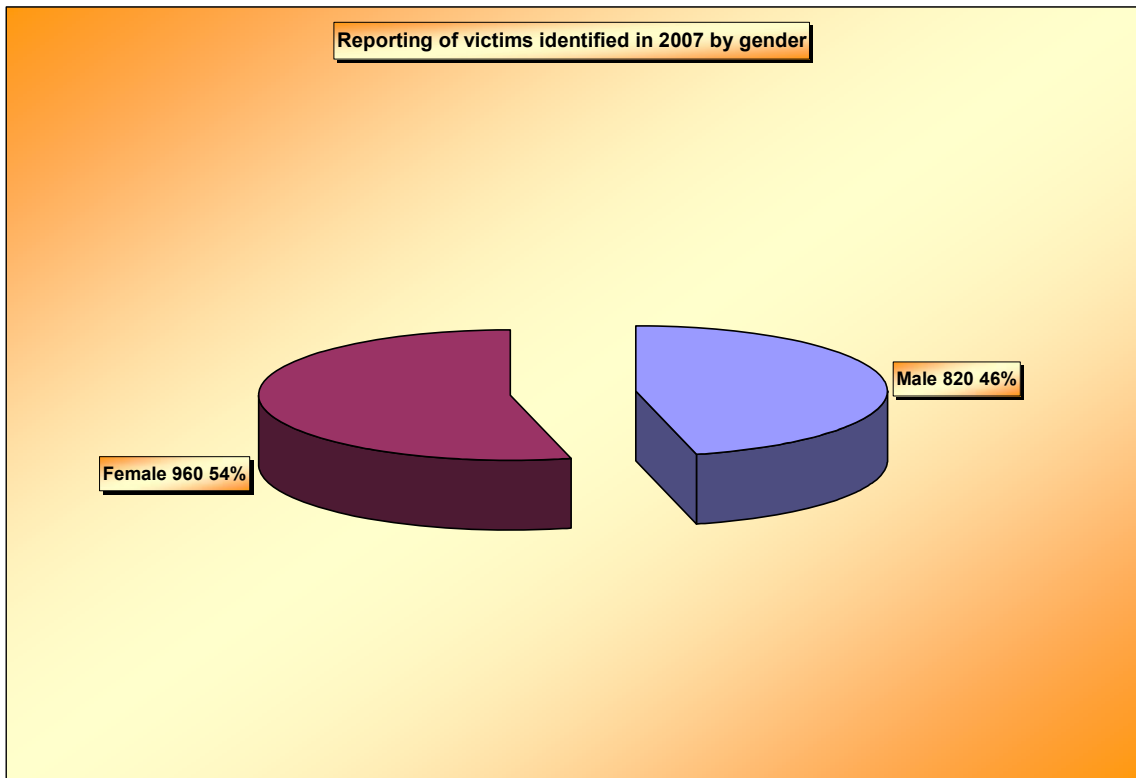


Fig. 7 Reporting of victims identified in 2007 by gender.

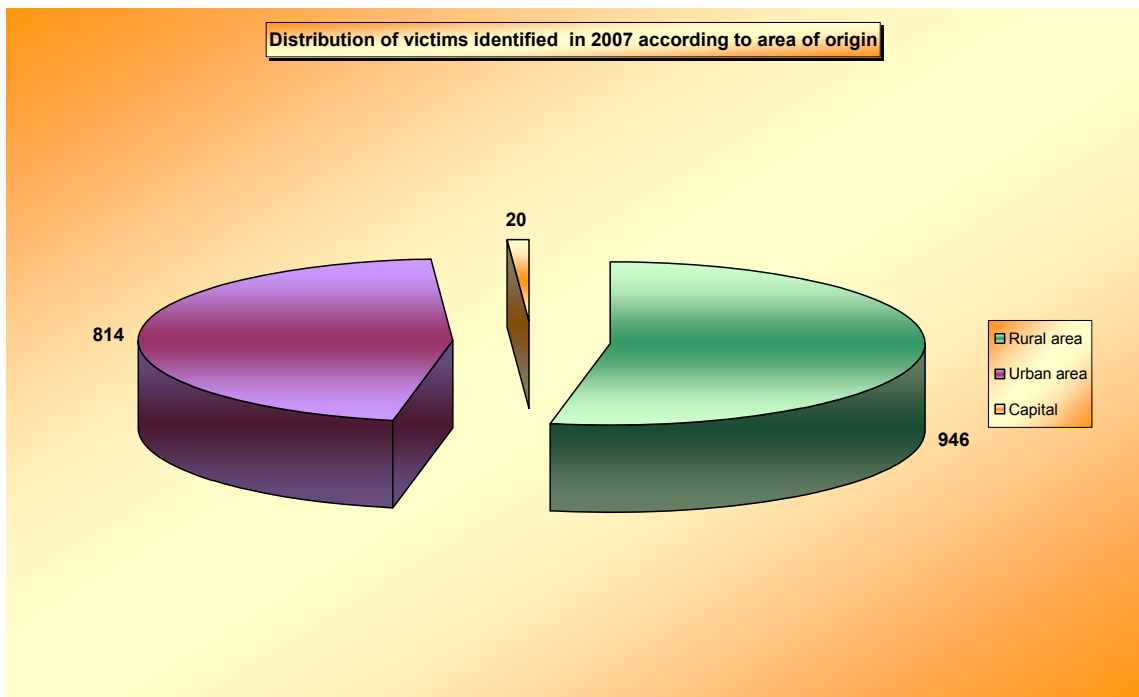


Fig. 8. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 according to area of origin

According to statistic data, women seem to maintain their status as the most vulnerable category, even though the reportable female victims of trafficking identified in 2007 fell, as compared to the previous years. Women were trafficked mainly for sexual exploitation with significant rates for other forms of exploitation as well.

Distribution of victims in terms of the **level of education**¹¹ indicates that **219** (12%) of these finished 1 – 4 years of schooling, **745 (42%)** between 5 and 8, **561 (31%)** between 9 and 12, **140 (8%)** graduated from a *vocational school*, and **13 (1%)** have academic *degrees*.

101 persons (approximately 6% of the total victims), *did not attend any form of education*. 53 of them were trafficked for labour, 31 forced into prostitution and 17 for sexual exploitation.

In conclusion, the majority of the trafficking persons identified in 2007 have a **low level of education (60% of them with at the most 8 years of schooling** and 18% did not receive any formal education or have only elementary studies). The low level of education may be considered a vulnerability factor unless it is associated with other factors related to job placement and family income. The vulnerability generated by this factor is even more important for victims coming from the rural areas (fig.8), where employment opportunities and a decent income or vocational training opportunities are restricted. As a result, the perspective of a better-paid job offer outside the country for which no qualified skills are required is extremely attractive, particularly when coming from an acquaintance, and people easily fall victims into the traffickers' "traps".

In this context one can also explain the low preponderance of victims graduates of a vocational school or of higher educational institutions. The vulnerability of victims who received an academic education is not increased because of the high level of their instruction; whereas, the explanation in cases of victims with vocational training relies, among other things, on the average level of qualification certified by diplomas that provide the victims with better opportunities on the labour market, both at national and European Union level (in EU Member States average qualifications are more required than higher qualifications, according to academic degrees, for which nationals of the destination country are preferably selected). At the same time, the low preponderance of victims in both categories can also be explained by the reduced distribution among the population of graduates of vocational schools or universities, as compared to highschool or college graduates.

Trafficking in persons, as a crime and a social phenomenon, is based on a **victim-recruiter** relationship form. The first to take advantage of the naivety of their potential victims, by speculating their social and economic difficulties, is the *recruiter* – the one who lures the victim into the trafficking history to be later on exploited for illicit financial gains.

¹¹Data in the present report refer to the level of education of victims at the time the trafficking process started. The difference between the number of identified victims and the total for this indicator results from the re-trafficking cases.

Thus, in 2007, acquaintances or friends (fig.9) recruited 481 of the female victims (50% of the female victimized population) and 283 of the male victims (35% of the male victimized population).

The reality of this demonstrates that traffickers have the ability to use manipulative mechanisms in order to draw victims into the trafficking process. Not accidentally, recruiters target potential victims carefully identified from among those with whom they have a minimum “friendly” relationship” and their socio-economic needs, natural desires of welfare and availability to leave the country are common knowledge to them.

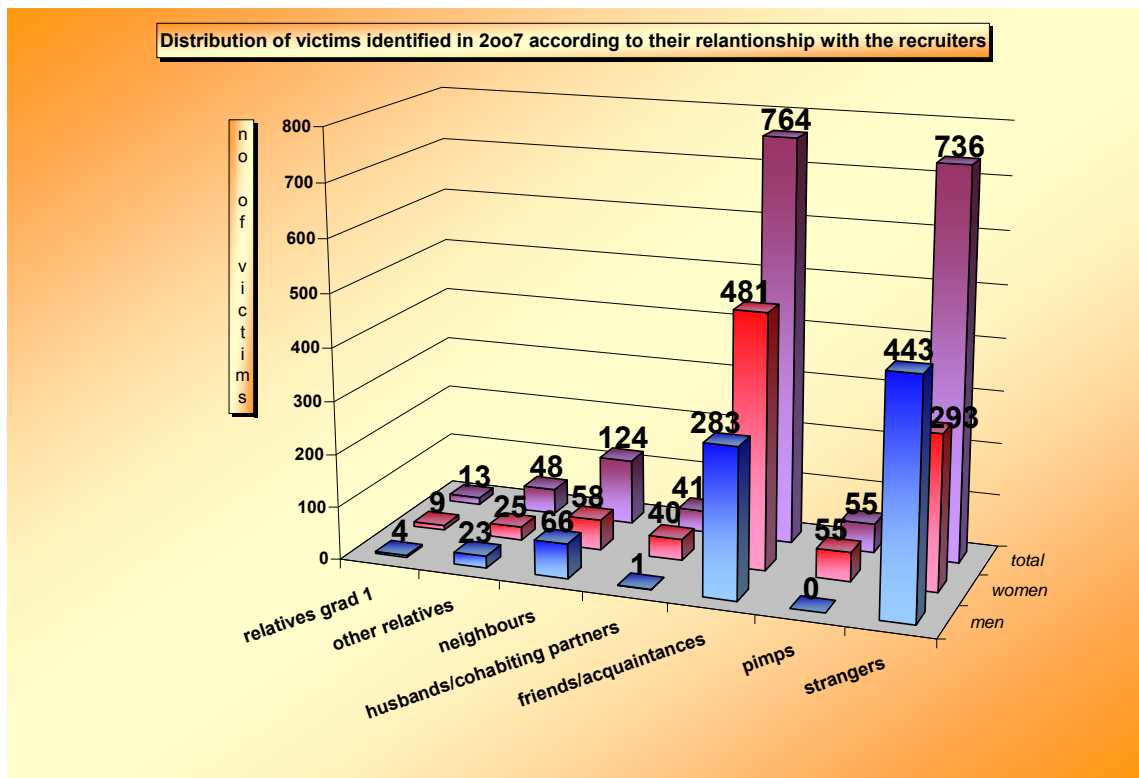


Fig. 9. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 according to their relationship with the recruiters

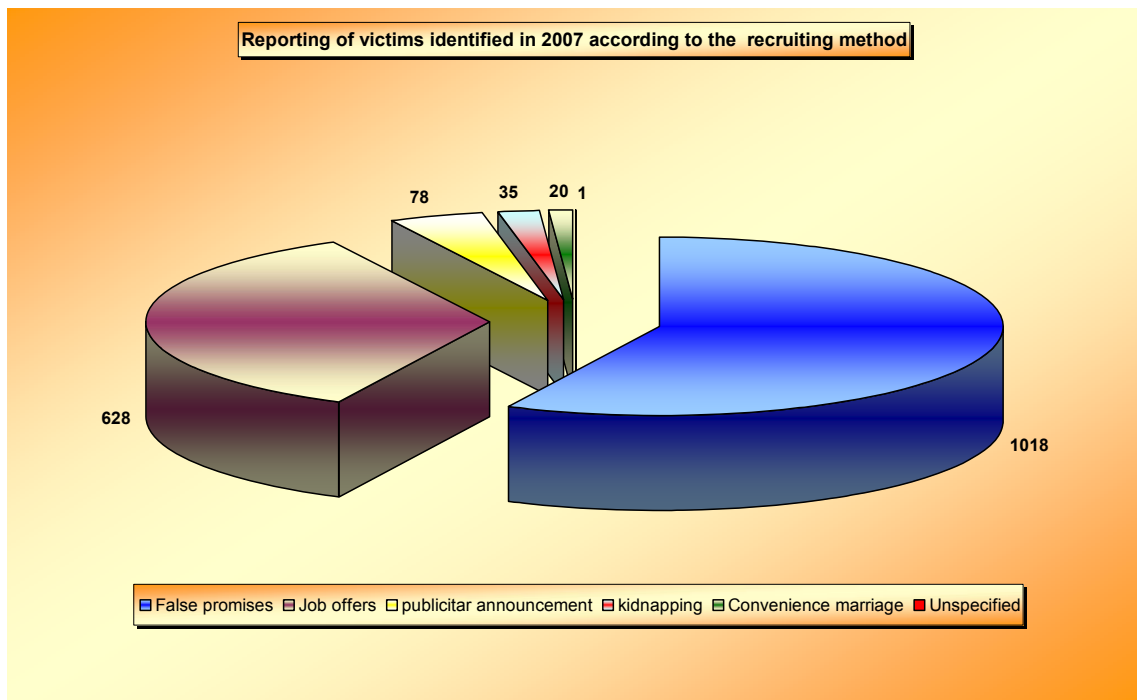


Fig. 10. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 according to the recruiting method

Another relevant and worrying aspect is the fact that their partners (cohabiting partners, husbands or partners about to get married to) drew 40 of the female identified victims into the trafficking situation. Moreover, 34 of these were victims of different forms of sexual exploitation.

Strangers attracted other 443 male victims and 293 female victims into the trafficking cycle. If in cases of victims deceived/recruited by acquaintances, friends or partners they abused of their trust worthy relationship with the victims in order to lure them into the trafficking history, in cases of victims recruited by strangers the higher vulnerability of victims becomes evident as justified by their low socio-economic status and desire for a rapid resolution of the economic problems confronting them.

For **1018** victims (**57%**), *false promises* represented the main *recruiting method* used by traffickers, while **627** victims (**35%**) were lured by better-paid job offers. **35 victims** (**2%**) stated that they had been **kidnapped** by traffickers and then exploited for sexual purposes (32 female victims, 17 of them age 13 -17), for begging (2 minor victims, one of each gender) or internet pornography (1 female victim) (fig. 10).

1.2 Female victims of trafficking

In comparison with 2006, the number of female victims recorded a significant drop from 1701 to 960. More than half of them, respectively 492 (51%), were aged 18 - 25; this age range has been also maintained in 2007 as a sensitive criterion which places young women into the category of victims at high risk of trafficking. Other 240 female victims (25%) were aged 14 -17, 173 (18%) age 26 - 40, 42 (4%) over 40¹² and 15 (2%) under 14. As a total, 706 female victims (74%) were adults at the time of the trafficking situation. (fig.11).¹³

Of these, 504 were victims of sexual exploitation, 159 were trafficked for purposes of labour exploitation in agriculture, construction and hotel industries. Other 31 women were forced into begging, 1 victim forced to commit thefts and 11 cases of attempted exploitation (fig. 12), resulting that the sexual exploitation continues to remain the major form of female exploitation, particularly young women.

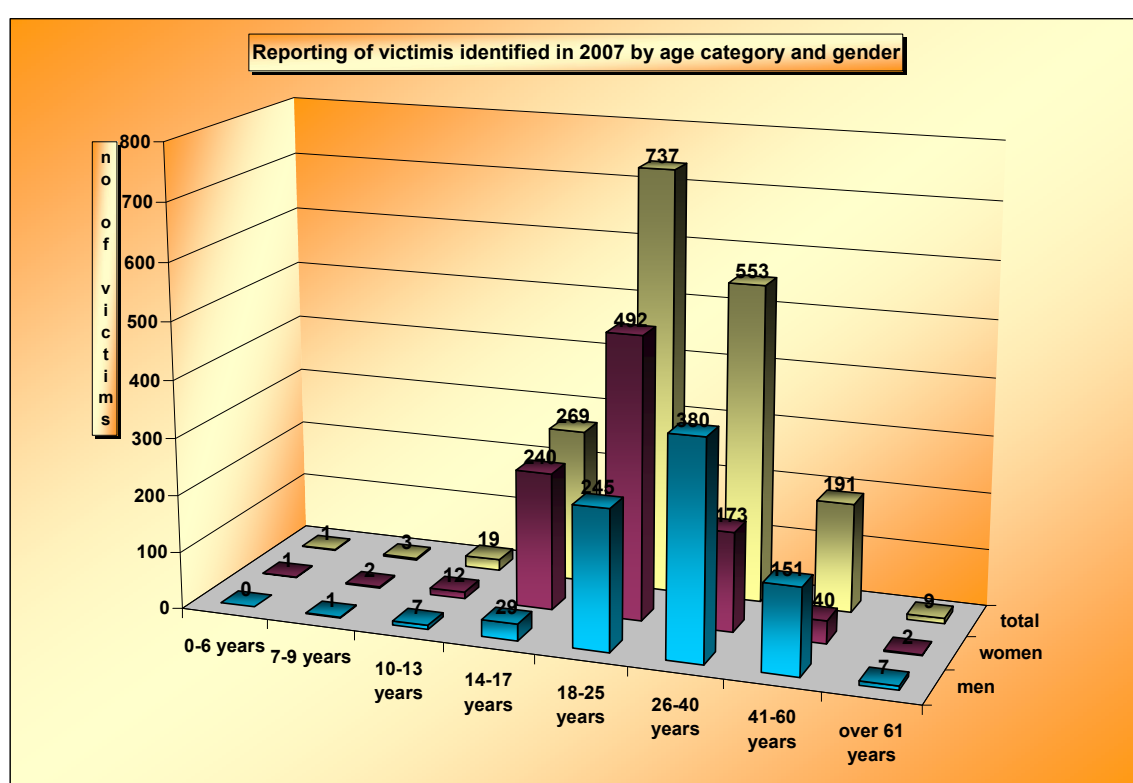


Fig.11. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 by age category and gender

¹² Out of the total female victims age over 26, 52% were exploited for purposes of forced labour, 39% for sexual exploitation, 9% for begging.

¹³ Two of the re-trafficked victims were of different ages when re-trafficked as compared to their first experience of trafficking. As a result, the centralized data system considered each individual situation.

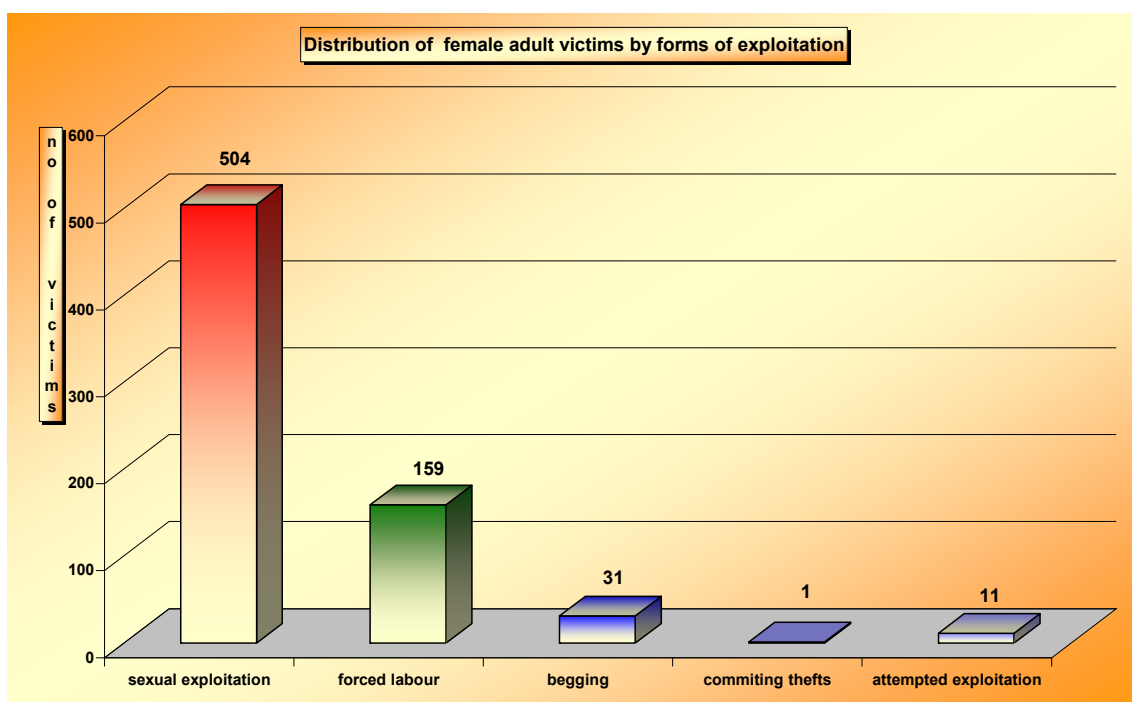


Fig.12. Reporting of female adult victims by form of exploitation

356 of the adult female victims (50%) come from urban areas, **336** (48%) from rural areas and only **14** (2%) from the capital city.

The great majority (94%) of adult female victims were recruited through false promise relating to the purpose of travel or a job offer. Promises were made by a person close to the victim, an acquaintance or a friend in 52% of the cases or by a stranger in 31% of the cases.

As regards the destination countries where adult female victims were exploited Spain (226 victims), Italy (216), **Romania – internal trafficking (63)**, Greece (62), Germany (47) and the Czech Republic (20) are ranked first. 31 adult female victims identified in 2007 were trafficked in more than two countries.

Women remain vulnerable to promises made by acquaintances, friends or close family, accepting bogus job offers and taking unknown risks. As a result they easily become victims of sexual commercial exploitation experiencing physical and emotional traumas with dramatic effects on medium or long term.

1.3 Male victims of trafficking

Adult male victims represent 95% of the total victims, respectively 783 out of 820. 380 victims (46%) are aged 26 - 40, 245 (30%) age 18 - 25, 151 (18%) age 41 - 60, 29 victims (4%) age 14 -17, and 8 victims (1%) identified in the 7 -13 age category (fig. 11). At the same time, there were identified 7 elderly victims (over 60) forced into begging in Ireland, Austria, Croatia, Spain or Italy.

Out of the adult male victims **463** (59%) come from the rural area, **316** (40,5%) from the urban area and only **4** (0.5%) are residing in Bucharest. Mention should be made that male victims coming from the rural areas were exploited mainly for **forced labour** in agriculture (260) and construction (141); victims residing in the urban areas were also **exploited for forced labour** in agriculture (191 victims) and to a less extent in construction (97). This is an indication that traffickers are equally targeting both rural and urban areas in recruiting their victims, yet the rural area remains a vulnerability factor in forced labour trafficking.

697 adult male victims were trafficked for **forced labour**, as follows: **454** in agriculture, **238** in *construction* and **5** in *hotel industries*. Another **80** persons were forced into begging and **4** were exploited for the purpose of committing thefts. There were recorded **2** cases of attempted exploitation (fig.13). No adult male victims of sexual exploitation were identified.

In case of the adult male victims, the majority of them (93%) were also recruited through false promises for better-paid job offers. Only in 7% of the cases, recruitment was performed through newspaper advertisements. At the same time, of all the adult male victims 48% were recruited by a stranger, 34% by a person close to the victim, acquaintance or friend; in 8% of the cases recruitment was performed by a neighbor (under the circumstances, victims were exploited for labour and begging); in 10% of the cases victims were recruited by close family members (up to 4th grade).

Unlike the adult female victims who, in most of the cases, were recruited by a familiar person for the purpose of sexual exploitation, in cases involving adult male victims recruitment was done by a stranger and the job offer made exercised an influence upon the victims' choice to leave the country for better profits.

As regards the destination, countries where adult male victims were exploited the Czech Republic (217), Spain (200), Italy (155) and Greece (123) are ranking first.

In 2007, 15 adult males were identified within the Romanian borders as victims of forced labour.

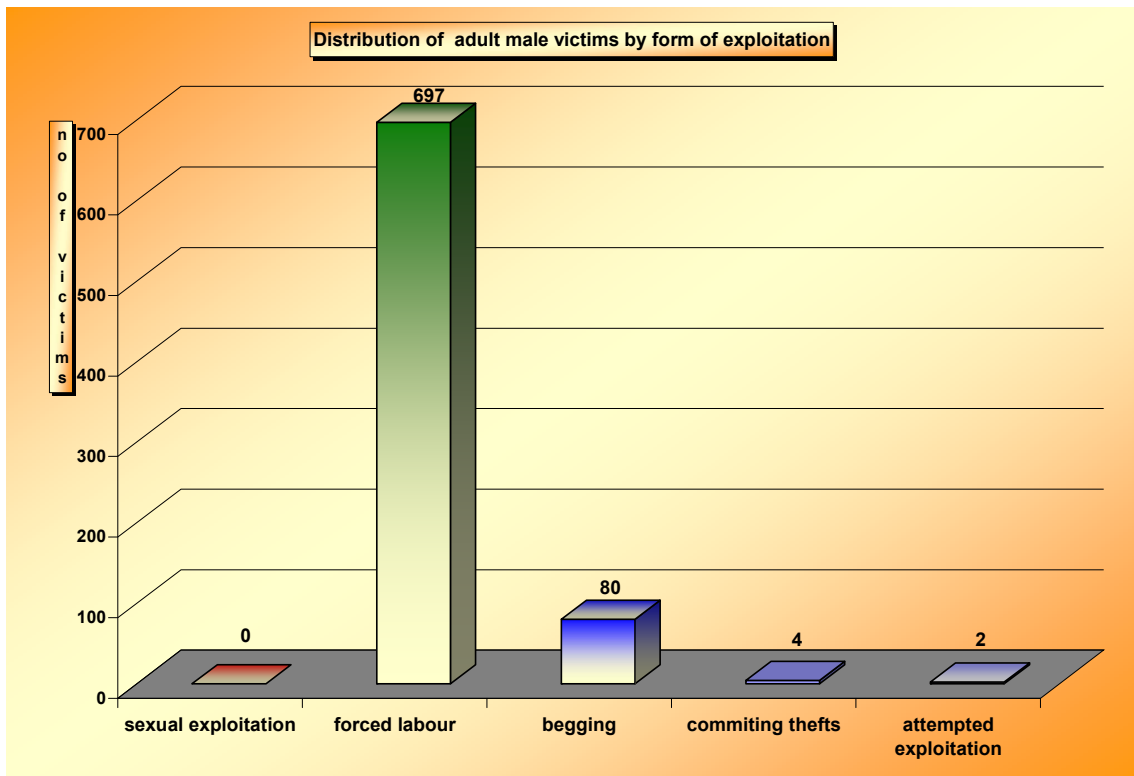


Fig. 13. Reporting of adult male victims by form of exploitation

1.4 Child victims of trafficking

Of the total victims of trafficking identified in 2007, **292 (16%)** were under 18 years of age. **127 (44%)** of them were victims of the **internal trafficking**, while **166 (56%)** were trafficked for various forms of exploitation outside the borders (fig.14). 2 of the minor victims were re-trafficked; initially exploited in Romania the minors were later on sold by pimps to other traffickers who took them to Spain, respectively Spain and Turkey; in both cases the purpose of trafficking was sexual exploitation¹⁴.

The main child **exploitation form** was *sexual* with **75%** of victims under the age of 18 trafficked for this purpose. At the same time, **35** minors (12%) were forced into *begging*, **21** (7%) exploited for *labour*, **5** forced to *commit thefts*, **6** exploited for the purpose of *pornography* (2 of them for internet pornography) and 5 cases of attempted exploitation.

The reportable 292 child victims by **gender** and **age** (fig. 15) show that most of them (92%- 269 victims) were aged **14 - 17** (240 girls, 29 boys).

¹⁴ The case of two girls age 16 and 17.

Other 19 victims were aged 10 -13 (12 girls, 7 boys), 3 victims age 7 - 9 (2 girls, 1 boy) and one victim was only 6 years old at the time of the trafficking¹⁵. Out of the victims under 13 years of age, 8 girls (11-13 years) were **sexually exploited** in Romania, 1 boy age 13 was **exploited for labour** in agriculture also in Romania, and 14 children (7 girls and 7 boys) were forced into **begging** (10 in Romania, 3 in Spain and 1 in Italy).

One very important aspect related to the exploited children concerns their family situation. (fig.16). Therefore, 173 of the 292 child victims of exploitation came from bi-parental families while 92 others lived in single parent families, 10 did not have a family support, 9 had been institutionalized¹⁶, 7 lived with relatives and 1 victim had been abandoned by the family. The matter points out that **the majority of child victims (59%) lived with both their parents** and that vulnerability of trafficking is evident within bi-parental families. The reason why these children entered the trafficking process goes beyond the socio-demographic criteria included in the present study; research is needed in order to identify the circumstances and mechanisms that lead to child trafficking.

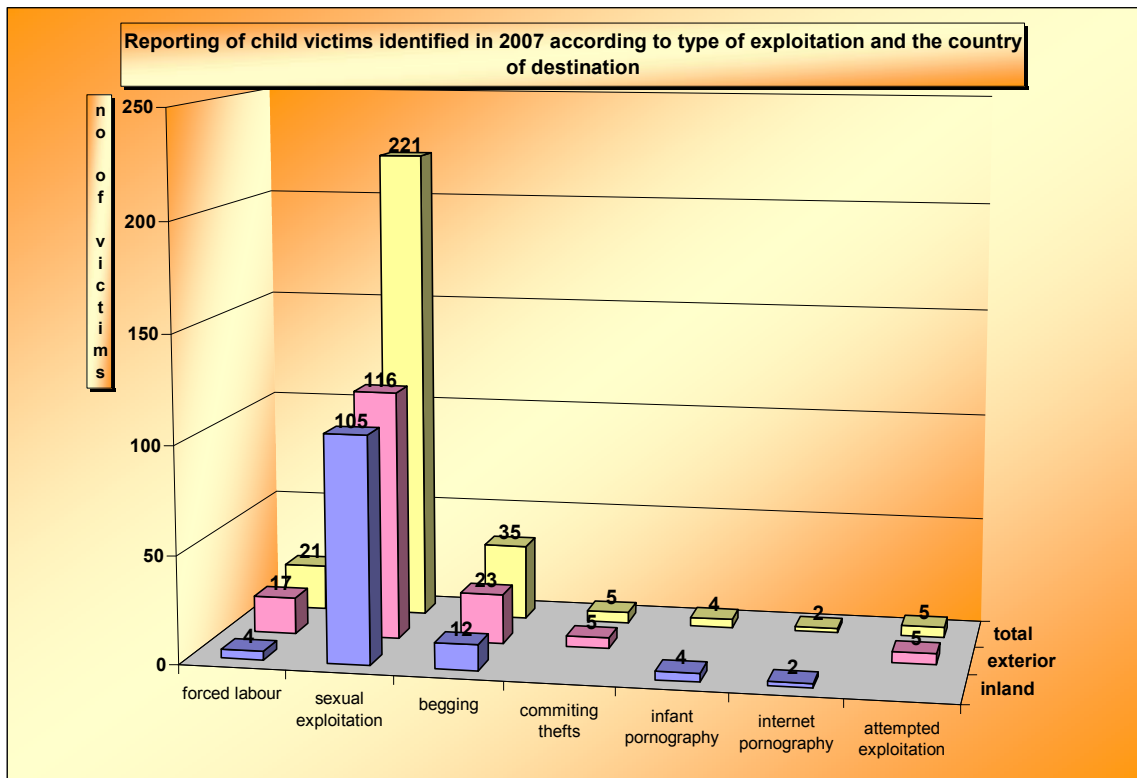


Fig. 14. Reporting of minor victims identified in 2007 according to the form of exploitation and country of destination

¹⁵ The case was identified by Organized Crime officers in one of the foster care centers. The child is the youngest of 4 brothers, all of them exploited for begging in Romania by a person with whom the boys had previous relationships.

¹⁶ Of these, 7 children were sexually exploited and 3 for begging.



Fig.15. Child victims identified in 2007 by gender and age

Analyzing the victims' **educational level**¹⁷, notice can be made that 39 children, accounting for 13% of the total of minor victims attended the elementary school, 172 (59%) finished 5-8 years of schooling and 69 (24%) between 9 and 12; 7 children (2%) are graduates of a vocational school and 6 were not sent to school. In 2007 minors still represented an extremely vulnerable group and for that reason the necessary actions shall be taken to prevent dropping out of school and develop information/awareness raising activities about trafficking associated risks in and outside schools.

Of the **166** children, victims of the **international trafficking** (fig.17):

- **98 were trafficked and exploited in Italy** (13 boys and 85 girls);
 - The child trafficking cases in Italy involved 70 girls as victims of sexual exploitation (60 children exploited in the street, 9 in lodging premises and 1 girl exploited for performing sexual services in clubs), 10 girls were forced into begging, 1 girl exploited for forced labour in the hotel industry, 1 girl was forced into committing thefts; there were also recorded 3 cases of attempted exploitation;
 - As regards the male minors, 6 boys were forced into begging, 3 forced to commit thefts, 3 exploited for forced labour in agriculture and 1 boy in construction;
- **32 were trafficked and exploited in Spain** (6 boys and 26 girls); of these:
 - 22 girls were sexually exploited (12 in clubs, 7 in the street and 3 in dwellings), 2 girls exploited for forced labour in agriculture, 1 forced into begging, 1 case of attempted exploitation;

¹⁷The data in the present report refer to the victims' level of education at the time trafficking started. The difference between the number of identified victims and the total for this indicator results from the re-trafficking cases.

- 4 boys were exploited for forced labour in agriculture and 2 boys forced into begging;
- 7 girls were trafficked and sexually exploited in Netherlands (4 of them in dwellings, 2 in clubs and 1 in hotels);
- 5 girls were trafficked and exploited in France (3 of them in the street and 2 forced into begging);
- 5 boys were exploited in the Czech Republic – all of them victims of exploitation for labour (3 in construction, 2 in agriculture);
- 4 minors were trafficked and exploited in Germany, 4 in Greece, 3 in Great Britain; all victims were girls and most of them trafficked for sexual purposes. In Germany, 1 girl was a victim of exploitation for begging. There was recorded one case of exploitation for labour in agriculture in Greece.

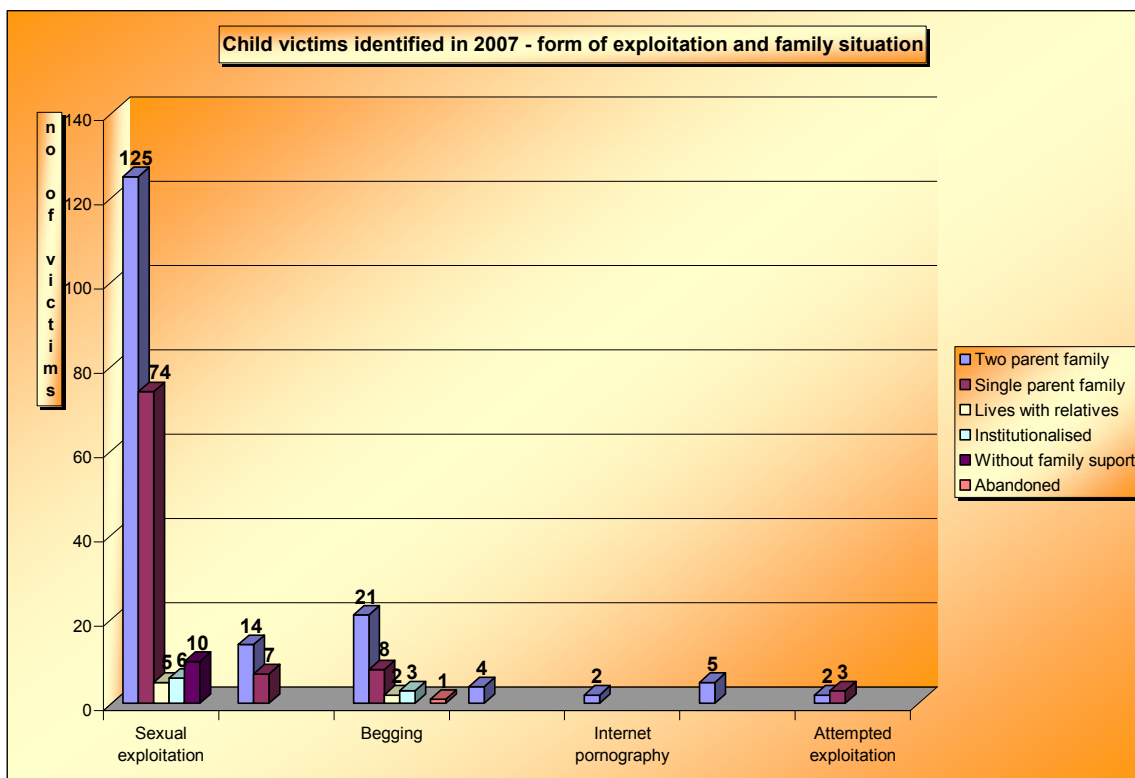


Fig. 16. Child victims identified in 2007 – form of exploitation and family situation

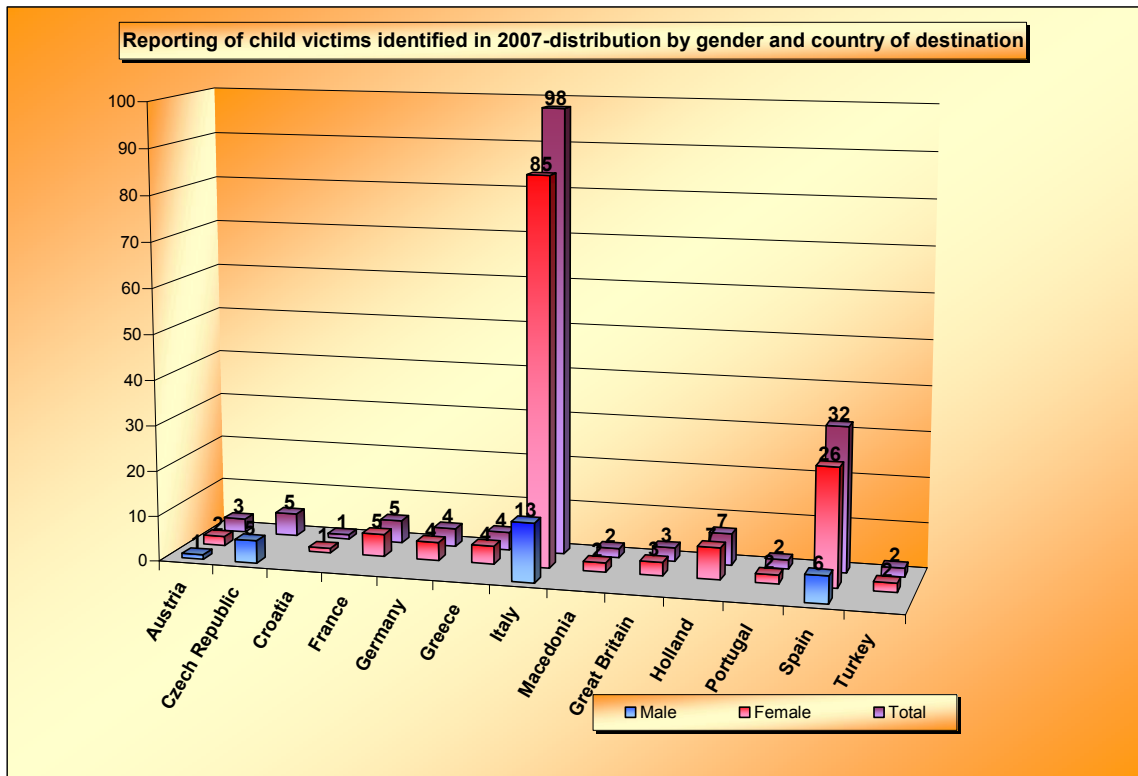


Fig. 17. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 (minors in international trafficking) by gender and country of destination

- 3 minors were exploited in **Austria** (1 boy forced into committing thefts, 1 girl for begging, 1 girl victim of sexual exploitation);
- 2 girls were trafficked and exploited in each of the following countries: **Turkey**, **Portugal** and **Macedonia** (all cases involved sexual exploitation);
- 1 girl was trafficked to **Croatia** for sexual exploitation.¹⁸

In 4 cases the minors were trafficked in several countries (2 of them in Italy and Spain, 1 in France and Italy, 1 in Turkey and Spain). **2 of the minors exploited outside the borders were also exploited in Romania.**

In the case of adult victims, the prevalence of countries by form of exploitation has been also maintained.

The majority of minors trafficked outside Romania were victims of sexual exploitation - 70% (116 cases), as follows: 69 children in the street, 22 in private dwellings/premises, 21 in clubs, 3 in hotels and 1 in brothels..

Most of the victims were recruited under the circumstances of false promises offering opportunities for better-paid jobs- 104 victims (90%). Other 6 victims were trafficked following a marriage proposal (5%) and 6 victims were kidnapped (5%).

¹⁸The difference in the total is the result of the centralized data system. Most of the 105 girls trafficked within the country borders for sexual purposes, respectively 90 victims, were recruited by means of false promises, 11 victims were kidnapped, 2 victims were recruited through newspaper ads and 2 victims as result of a marriage of convenience trafficking

In many cases, an acquaintance or a person close to the victim (65 cases – 56%) made the offer. In 29 cases (25%), the proposal came from a person with whom the victim had no previous relationships, including also the kidnapping cases. In other situations, neighbors (9 cases – 7%) or pimps (7 cases) performed recruitment. 3 victims were recruited by partner or husband and another 3 by relatives.

In cases of international trafficking and irrespective of the form of exploitation, children suffered various abuses: emotional (64 victims - (39%), physical (45 victims – 27%), sexual (19 victims- 11%); 14 victims had their documents confiscated or destroyed (8%), financial penalties imposed on 13 victims (8%), 5 victims were locked up (3%), 3 victims were refused access to food and hygiene and recovery facilities, and 3 cases of attempted exploitation.

The counties recording the highest number of children trafficked outside the Romanian borders (fig.18) are as follows: Mehedinți (21), Galati (14), Dolj (11), Botosani (9), Constanta (8), Arges and Prahova (7 for each), Iasi (6), Bihor, Vaslui, Giurgiu, Dambovita, Calarasi, Buzau, Brasov (5 for each).

In 2007, there were identified **127 minor victims trafficked within the country borders** (fig. 14), of whom **116 girls and 11 boys**.

Most of the girls were victims of sexual exploitation - 105 victims (91%), 4 for child pornography, 2 for internet pornography and 5 forced into begging. Of the 11 boys, 7 were forced into begging and 4 exploited for labour.

Unlike child victims sexually exploited outside the borders, in most of the cases involving children trafficked within the Romanian borders, exploitation occurred in private dwellings/premises (67 victims – 63% of the cases) focusing the attention on the underground nature of the phenomenon. Such cases are difficult to identify as the access to these locations is less visibly and restricted or strictly controlled by traffickers and customers that makes the socially associated risk of the phenomenon to be very high.

Another significant fact is that the only reportable cases of child pornography (4) and Internet pornography (2) occurred within the country borders. 2 of the victims were also subjected to sexual abuse, while another 4 were threatened and put under pressure by traffickers.

Most of the 105 girls trafficked within the country borders for sexual purposes, respectively 90 victims, were recruited by means of *false promises*, **11 victims were kidnapped**, 2 victims were recruited through newspaper ads and 2 victims as result of a marriage of convenience.

In terms of the **victim-recruiter relationship** within sexual exploitation, 39 victims (37%) were recruited by persons previously unknown to them (compared with 25% of the minors involved in external trafficking), 36 victims (34%) were recruited by acquaintances/friends, 14 victims (13%) were recruited by pimps, 6 victims by their partner, 5 by neighbors, 5 by relatives.

In the main, with regard to child victims of trafficking, recruitment was carried out by an acquaintance or a friend (in 45% of the cases); there are also cases of victims recruited by neighbors, partners or first-degree relatives (parents) where children were

exploited for begging or sexual services and 1 child for forced labour. Only 4 of the 10 children recruited by first-degree relatives were exploited in Romania (3 girls age 14 -16 for sexual exploitation, 1 girl - begging), the other 6 (3 girls and 3 boys) were trafficked to Italy and Spain (4 children exploited for begging, 1 girl for sexual services and 1 boy for forced labour).

With reference to the counties of residence of child victims trafficked in Romania (fig.19), a large geographical distribution can be noted as found in the following: Iasi (16 victims)¹⁹, Buzău, Brasov (10), Arges (9), Ialomita (7), Neamt, Prahova, Vaslui, Gorj and Alba (6), Dambovita (5), Mures, Timșș, Galati (4), Giurgiu, Bacău, Calarasi and Cluj (3), Maramures, Suceava and Tulcea (2).

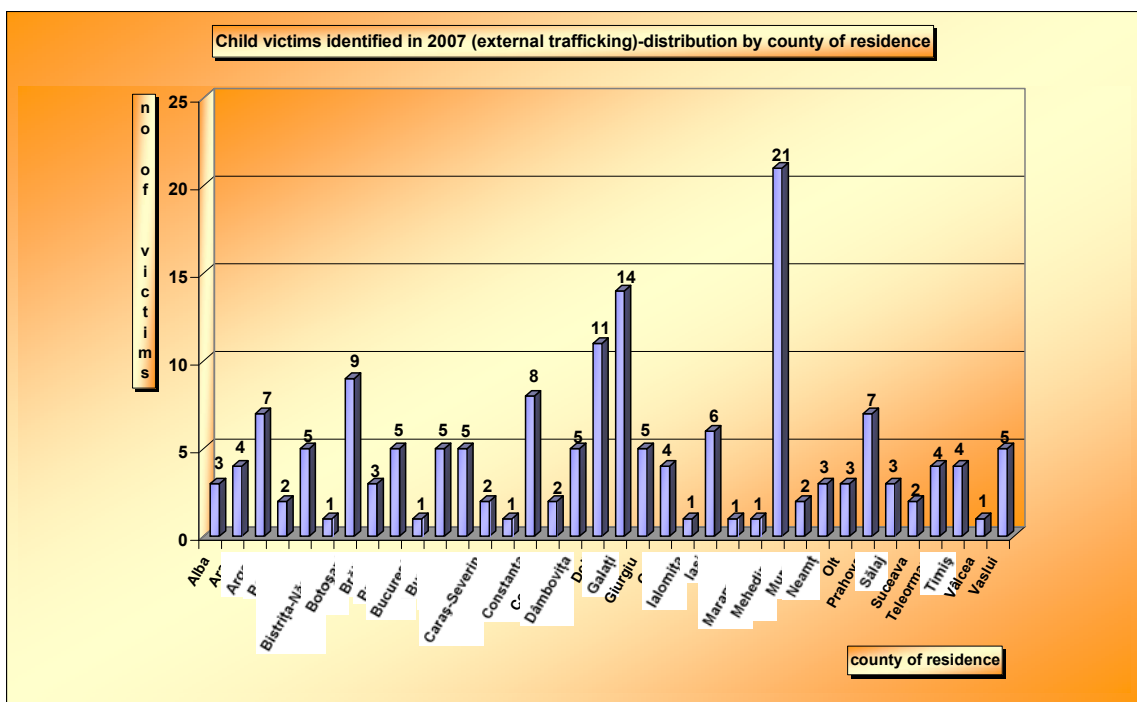


Fig.18. Reportable victims identified in 2007 (minors in external trafficking) by county of residence

¹⁹ The city of Iasi is also one of the main exploitation cities for victims of internal trafficking.

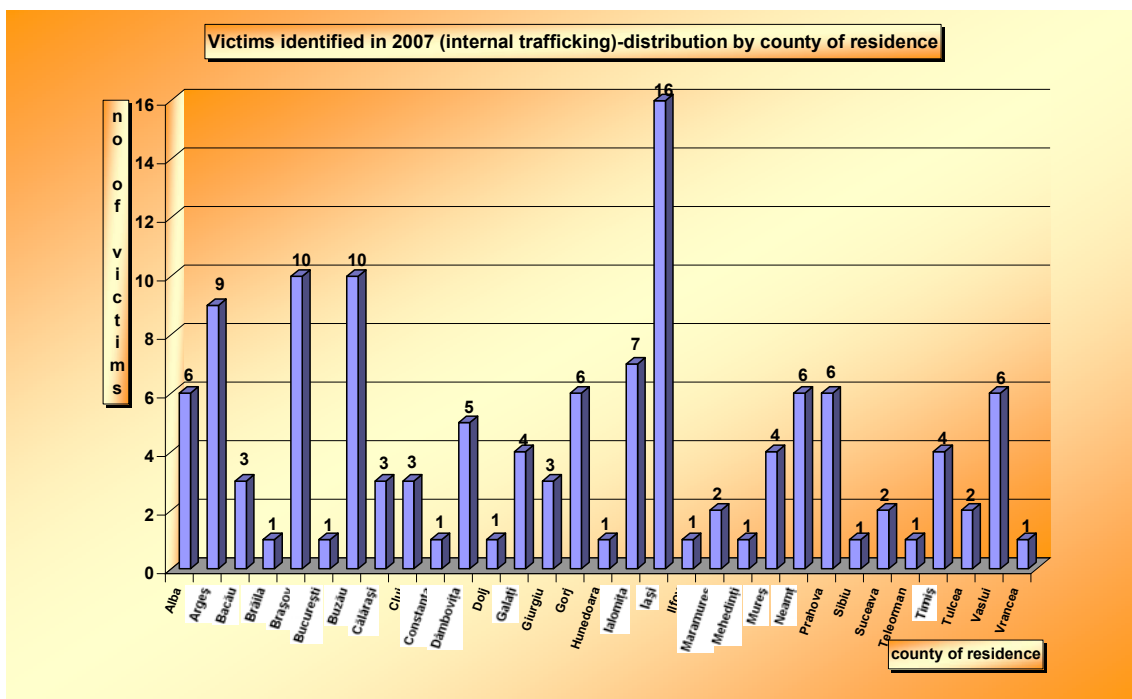


Fig.19 Reportable victims identified in 2007 (minors in internal trafficking) by county of residence.

1.5 Forms of victim exploitation

According to statistic data the following forms of exploitation²⁰ were used in 2007 (fig. 20):

1. **forced labour: 877 victims (49% of the total victims identified in 2007);**
2. **sexual: 724 victims (41%);**
3. **begging: 146 victims (8%);**
4. **criminal conduct (thefts): 10 victims;**
5. **child pornography: 4 victims;**
6. **internet pornography: 2 victims.**

There were recorded 18 situations (1%) of attempted trafficking offences.

No reports of persons trafficked with the purpose of organ removal were recorded in 2007, either.

²⁰The difference between the number of identified victims and the total for this indicator results from the re-trafficking cases.

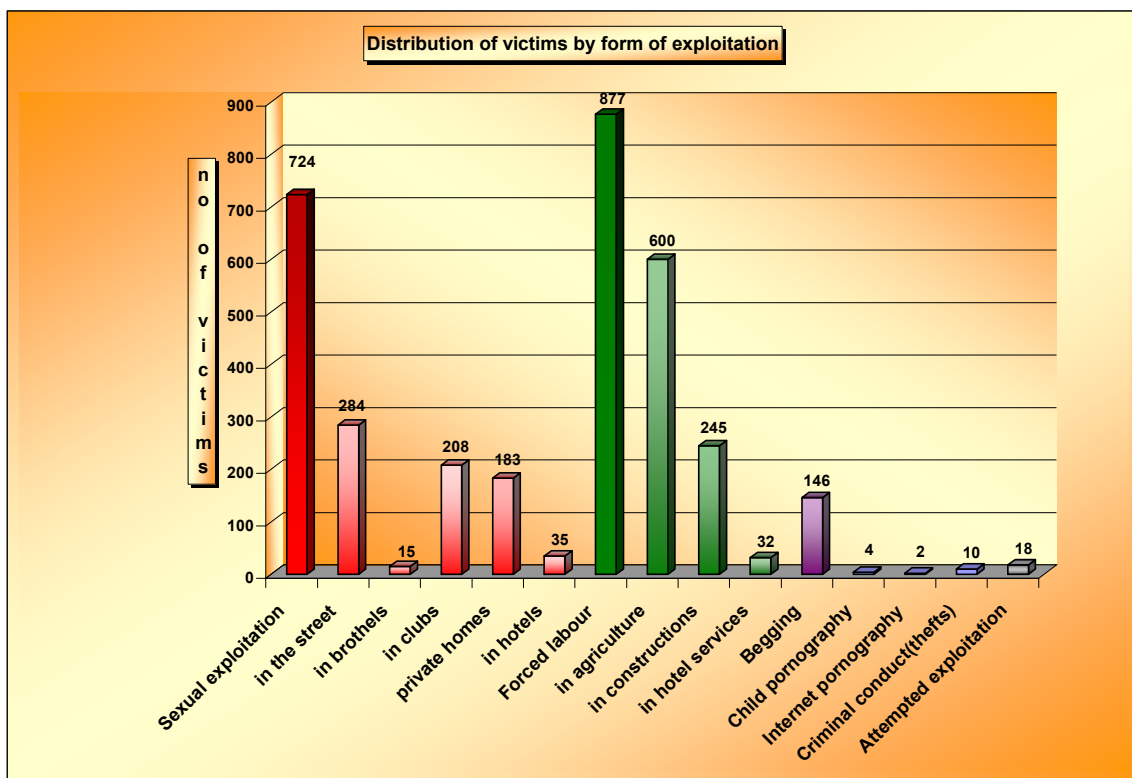


Fig. 20. Reporting of victims identified in 2007 by form of exploitation.

1.5.1 Trafficking for labour

Most of the victims trafficked for labour were exploited in agriculture: 600 persons, indicative of 68% of the total victims identified in 2007 and exploited for this purpose. Other 245 (28%) were victims of exploitation in constructions and 32 (4%) exploited for labour in the hotel industries.

“I had heard that you could find work easier and for better money in Italy than here. I took the offer to work as a domestic servant in Italy. I thought that by Christmas I would have made enough money to make my mother a surprise.”

Offers for well-paid jobs are the main method of recruiting victims of this form of exploitation.

Therefore, in 93% of the cases such offers were used and only in 7% of the cases recruitment was carried out by means of a newspaper ad.

In 56% of the cases, a stranger made the job offer and in 35% of the cases, the job offer came from an acquaintance or a person close to the victim. In 7% of the cases, a neighbor or a relative (2%) made the offer.

The people’s desire for a well-paid job makes them consider the offer extremely attractive, though a stranger proposes it. At the same time, the influence exercised by the *successful stories* of Romanians working abroad, should be an issue for consideration.

Victims exploited for labour (fig.21) were trafficked to **Spain**- in **28% of the cases (244)**, of whom 230 - 94% - in agriculture), **27% to the Czech Republic (240)**, of whom

180 - 75% - in constructions), **21%** to **Italy** (186, with 142 of them - 76% - in agriculture), **18%** to **Greece** (162, of whom 152 - 94% - in agriculture), under 3% in **Romania** (**22**, with 15 of them - 68 % in constructions). Other destination countries were Germany, 15 cases (under 2%), Cyprus, 6 cases (under 1%), Belgium and Slovakia, 1 case each (under 1%).

Even victims exploited for labour suffer one or several *forms of abuse*. As a result, 31% (274 victims) were subjected to different financial penalties or debt bondage; 27% (240 persons) were victims of various forms of emotional abuse induced by traffickers, mostly through threats; 21% (180 persons) were refused access to food, water and hygiene; 11% (100 persons) had their identity documents destroyed and 40 victims (5%) were deprived of liberty or confined. About 3% (29 persons) sustained physical abuses and less than 1% (2 persons) were sexually abused²¹.

„A friend of mine asked me to go and work in Ireland. She managed to falsify my passport and, together with her and her boyfriend, we flew to Ireland. We stopped in France because her boyfriend got sick and had to be in the hospital for two days. We slept in the streets and, when the boyfriend got better, we resumed our trip. There, I was locked up in a flat and for 6 months I only got out twice”.

General profiling of trafficking victims exploited for labour shows that:

- a significant majority of victims exploited for labour, respectively 714 persons (81%), are males and 697 (98%) of them are adults;
- 514 victims (59%) are residing in the *rural area*, 358 in the urban area (41%), and 5 come from Bucharest. The area of origin, respectively the rural area, becomes under the circumstances, a vulnerability factor when related to the risk involved by trafficking for labour;
- 414 of the victims exploited for forced labour (81%), residing in the rural area, are males and only 19% (100 victims) are females. Victims coming from the urban area are represented by 297 male victims (83%) and 61 female victims (17%). This indicates the main orientation of males coming from both urban and rural areas (their counties of origin are situated throughout all regions in the country) towards opportunities for better- paid jobs outside the country, without taking into consideration the risks associated to trafficking for forced exploitation of labour;
- reporting of victims exploited for labour by *level of education*²² indicates that 53 of them (6%) did not attend any form of education; 107 (12%) finished 1- 4 years of schooling; most of the victims in this category, respectively 318 (36%) had 5 – 8 years of schooling; 287 (33%) between 9 and 12; 102 (12%) attended a vocational training school and 8 have academic degrees (under 1%), which points to another factor of vulnerability to the risk of labour exploitation: the *low level of education*;

²¹ Both victims were exploited in agriculture, in Spain; one of the victims was a minor.

²² Level of education for 2 victims could not be established.

- the main counties of origin for victims of labour exploitation were the following: Teleorman, Mures and Botosani with more than 80 victims per county; Constanta, Ialomita, Dolj and Olt with 40 to 80 identified victims each (fig.22);
- the high incidence of cases of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation relevant in some regions across the country, in circumstances where characteristics in terms of area of origin and level of education do not significantly differ from those peculiar to all victims of labour exploitation, might be an indication of a high criminal activity carried out by traffickers in these areas.



Fig. 21. Reporting of victims exploited for labour identified in 2007 according to country of destination

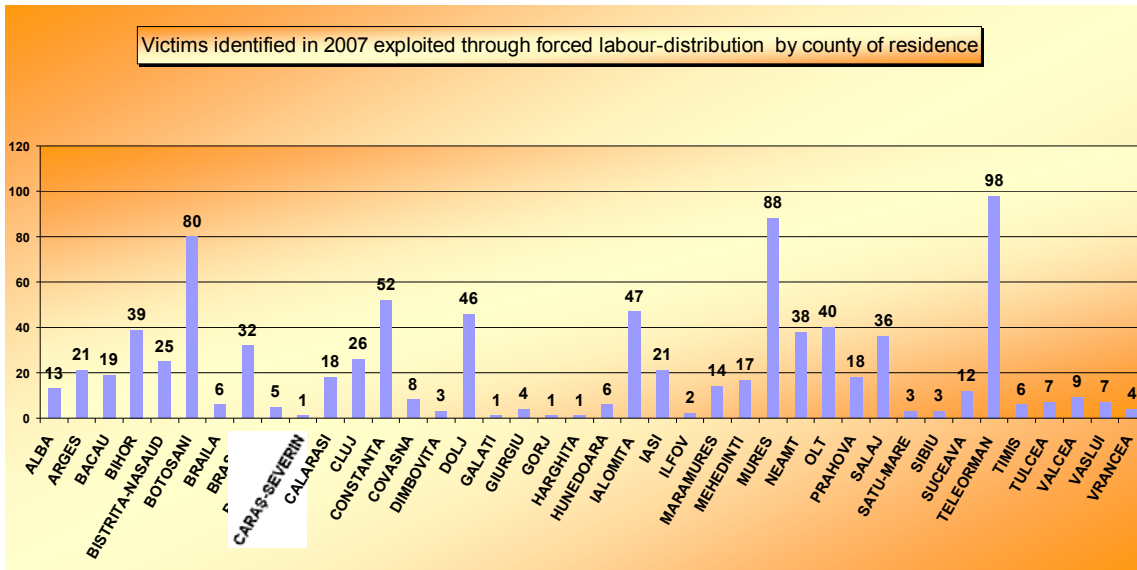


Fig. 22. Reporting of victims exploited for labour identified in 2007 according to county of residence

1.5.2 Trafficking for sexual exploitation

Though the incidence of the total number of victims identified in 2007 (724 victims of the 1780, representing 41%), as compared with 2006 (1451 of 2285, respectively 64%), is dropping, **sexual exploitation** remains an important form of victimization, the second after labour exploitation.

If victims exploited for labour are both males and females, the situation in cases of sexual exploitation is completely different: **all victims sexually exploited are females.**

Overall, sexual exploitation had a commercial purpose, traffickers aiming to obtain large sums of money by selling sexual services that victims were forced to provide for their “clients”. The most common methods to offer sexual services are those used in streets, clubs or dwellings in equal percentages; choosing one of these methods is probably determined by the structure of the sexual services market.

Therefore, **284 victims (39%)**, were exploited *in the streets*, **208 victims (29%)** in *clubs* and **183 victims (25%)** in *dwellings* or *private premises*. In 35 cases (5%), the sexual exploitation occurred *in hotels* and 15 victims (2%) were trafficked for sexual services *in brothels* (fig.19)²³.

Most of the sexually exploited victims (662 persons, 91 %,) were trafficked as result of a *false promise* made by the victim’s acquaintance or friend (in 352 of the cases). Only in 181 of the cases, a stranger, unlike victims of labour exploitation when such a person mostly did recruitment, made the promise relating to an employing opportunity abroad. In 25 cases, husbands or partners, neighbors (33 cases), relatives (24 cases) or pimps (49 cases), recruited the victims²⁴.

Unlike the other exploitation forms, in the sexual exploitation cases **32 victims** were **kidnapped** (4%) and 17 victims entered the trafficking process following a marriage proposal (2%).

The fact that recruitment is generally performed by a person close to the victim, respectively an acquaintance,

„They would us hide in the sewers. We were close to the border and they were already making plans to sell us; yet, we didn’t know anything about it.. My best friend sold me. I asked her how she could do that and she slapped me. I was a virgin. I begged, I cried and implored, but nothing mattered. The three men raped me by turn.. I couldn’t believe I was being sold.”

„He was my boyfriend when he asked me to leave for Spain and make a future there together. I never thought that he was going to sell me like an object without even looking back.”

²³The difference between the total cases of sexual exploitation and the detailed reporting of all situations presented in accordance with the recruiting method is a result of the re-trafficking situations. When the same person is re-trafficked, in case data was altered as compared with his/her previous experience, the information is processed into the database as a new exploitation situation. For example, a person was the victim of sexual exploitation in both situations, firstly in dwellings and secondly in the streets.

²⁴The difference between the total for this indicator (*relationship with the recruiter*) and the number of victims recruited through **false promises** (662) results from the re-trafficking cases.

friend, partner or husband, relatives or neighbors, places victims in an extremely vulnerable position. This factor only cannot account for the process/mechanism by which some women and children end up in a trafficking situation but it points to the risk they may face when proposals come from persons that victims used to confide in, thus unscrupulously deceiving their relationship with the victims.

Under the circumstances, any woman or child may become a victim of trafficking and the prevention campaigns should be aimed at delivering the clear message that reliable persons can be involved in trafficking, too.

As regards the main destination countries for sexual exploitation (fig.23) the most of the victims were trafficked to Italy - 239 victims (32%), Spain - 199 victims (26%), Romania, for internal trafficking, - 166 victims (22%), Germany - 33 victims (4%), Greece and the Netherlands with 19 victims each (3%), France - 18 victims (2%), Turkey and Hungary - 13 victims each (2%), Switzerland - 10 victims (a little over 1%), Austria - 8 victims (1%), Great Britain - 4 victims (under 1 %), Portugal - 3 victims (under 1 %), Macedonia, Cyprus, Norway and the Czech Republic with 2 victims each (under 1 %), Lebanon, Serbia, Croatia, Ireland and Denmark with 1 victim each (under 1 %).

30 victims were trafficked/exploited in more than 1 country²⁵ and in **3 of the cases** the trafficking experience also include exploitation in **Romania**.

With reference to the sexual exploitation, 276 victims (38%) were subjected to threats and pressures from traffickers; 187 of the victims (26%) suffered various forms of physical violence; 127 victims (18%) were also sexually abused and 61 (8%) were imposed financial penalties and debt bondage. 36 victims (5%) had their documents withheld or destroyed, 26 victims (4%) were deprived of liberty and in 7 cases (1%) traffickers denied the victims their right to food²⁶.

Generally, sexual exploitation entails the experience of several forms of abuse, some of the most violent abuses such as physical or sexual, but emotional as well, because any type of physical or sexual abuse is invariably accompanied by a significant psychological aggression. Such abuses are causing severe traumas and in order to overcome them a long period of recovery as well as a sustained emotional effort on behalf of the victims are needed.

„ I was six weeks pregnant. They forced me to have an abortion and a week later they beated me to go back to the customers. I was told not to refuse and dance, otherwise I would have a gun pointed at me. If you don't behave, they would kill you. I started drinking so I was not aware of what was going on”.

²⁵The difference between the total number of cases and the number of trafficking situations presented for each country is due to the data collection system. When a victim is trafficked/exploited in more than one country, the database processes separately each individual situation.

²⁶In 5 cases of attempted trafficking offences, victims were not abused. The difference between the number of identified victims and the total for this indicator results from the re-trafficking cases.

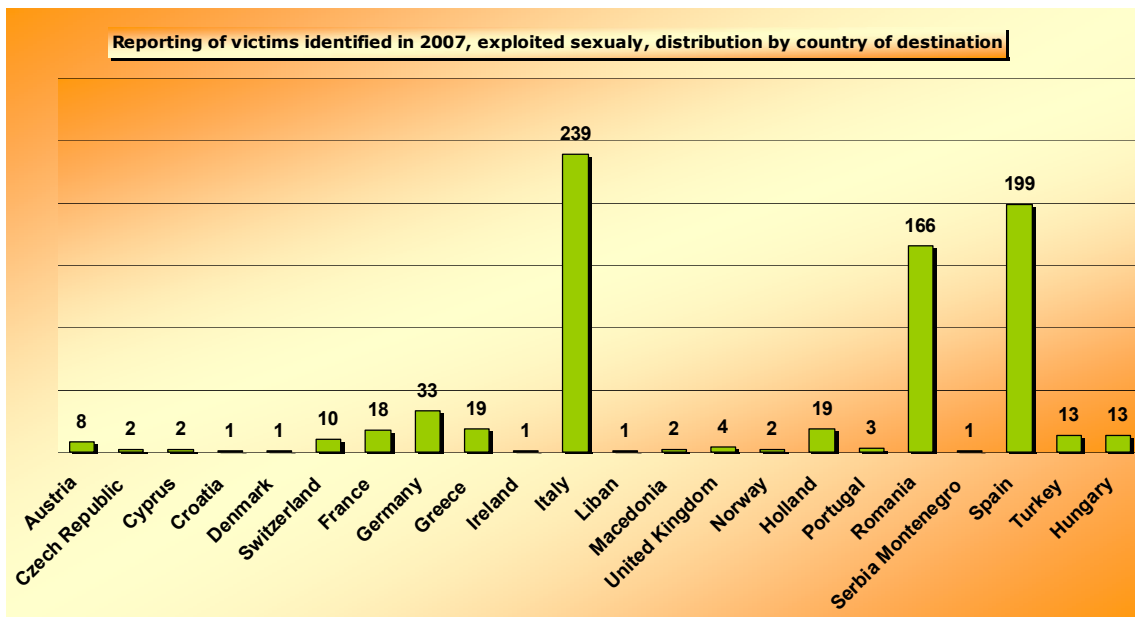


Fig.23. Reportable victims of sexual exploitation identified in 2007 by country of destination.

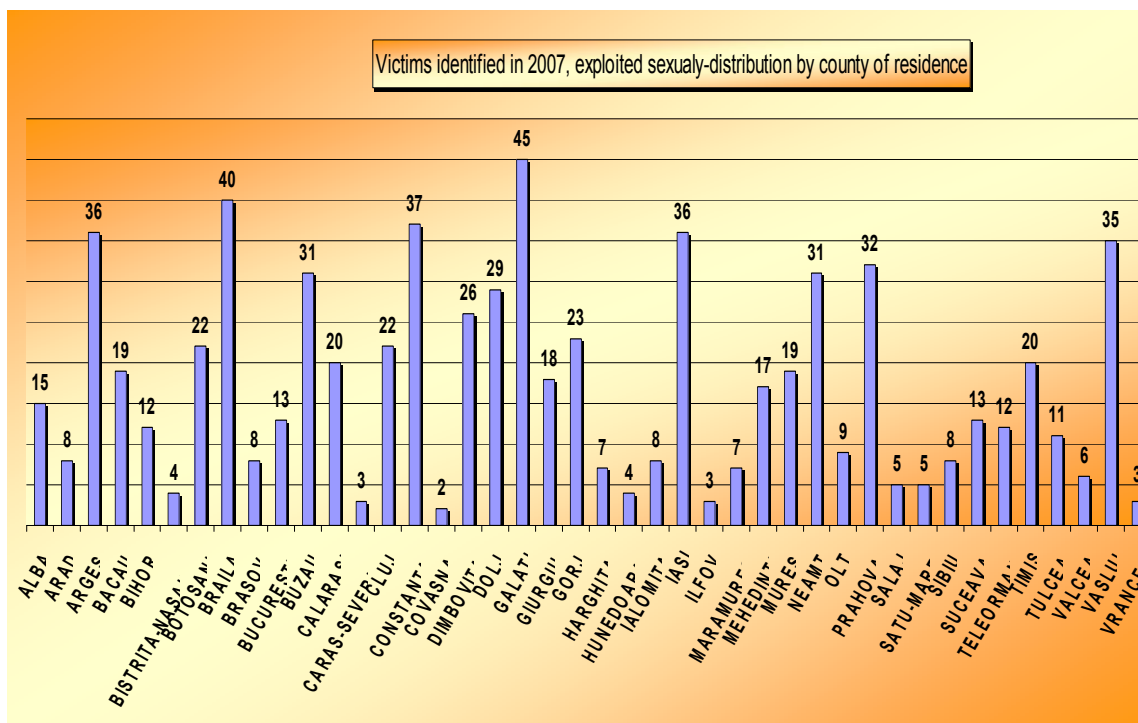


Fig.24 Reportable victims of sexual exploitation identified in 2007 by county of residence.

General profiling of victims trafficked for sexual services indicates that:

- all victims were women;
- of the total of 724 victims sexually exploited:
 - 504 (70%) adults, of whom 421 age 18-25 (58%) and 84 (12%) over 26 of age;
 - 220 (30%) minors, of whom 212 (29%) age 14-17 and 8 (1%) age 10-13 ²⁷;
- a relevant indicator in profiling victims of sexual exploitation is their *level of education*; thus, 17 victims (2%) did not attend any form of education; 62 (8%) finished 1- 4 years of schooling; 362 (50%) between 5 and 8; 242 (34%) between 9 and 12; 37 (5%) are graduates of a vocational training school and only 5 (under1%) have an academic degree. It is a fact that demonstrates the increased vulnerability of females to the risk of trafficking, particularly those with less of 8 years of formal education;
- victims of exploitation for the purpose of sexual services came from the urban area - 380 (52%) and the difference between this category and those from the rural area (46%) is relatively small. Only 13 victims come from Bucharest (2%);
- the main counties of origin for victims of sexual exploitation identified in 2007 were the following: Galati, Braila with more than 40 victims in each county and Constanta, Arges, Iasi, Vaslui, Prahova, Neamt, Buzau with 30 - 40 victims each (fig. 24).

Though trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation is relevant throughout the country, a higher incidence is noticeable in some counties such as Braila and Galati. The situation is somewhat similar to that recorded for victims of labour at the level of counties such as Teleorman, Mures and Botosani. Both situations can point out to the presence of some organized crime groups specializing in criminal enterprises related to various forms of exploitation.

It is also worth mentioning that the county of Constanta with a high number of recordable victims of both sexual and labour exploitation shall be the focus of attention of anti-trafficking specialized structures..

²⁷The difference in total results from the re-trafficking situations. When the same person is re-trafficked, the information relating to the re-trafficking situation is added to the database, in case the data was altered as compared to the previous experience. In this case, one of the victims was of a different age when re-trafficked. .

1.5.3 Trafficking for begging

Out of the **146 victims forced into begging**, **95 (65%)** were males and **51 (35%)** were females.

80 of the **male** victims were **adults** age 18 to 25 (26 victims) and over 26 years of age (54 victims) while **15** were **minors** (8 age 14 to 17, 7 age 7 to 13).

31 of the **female** victims were **adults** age 18 to 25 (12 victims) and over 26 years of age (19 victims), while **20** were **minors** (13 age 14-17, 4 age 10-13 and 3 age 6-9).

Recruitment also occurred under the circumstances of false promises regarding either the purpose of the journey (e.g., there are cases where the victims were promised facilities in undertaking a surgery/medical treatment abroad) or a job offer. 142 victims (97%) were recruited in this way, 2 victims were kidnapped and another 2 were recruited through a marriage proposal. The latter four situations involved **minor** victims.

As in the case of sexual exploitation, a person close to the victim performed recruitment: in 47% of the cases by his/her acquaintance or friend. In other 14% of the cases, a neighbor recruited the victim and in 6% cases, the recruiter was a relative, for 5% a first-degree relative and in 3% of the cases a partner or a husband. In only 25% of the cases a stranger recruited victims.

The countries with the highest number of victims exploited for begging identified in 2007 were **Germany** (44 victims), **Italy** (31), Spain (12), Romania (12), Austria (9), France (9) and Croatia (9) (fig. 25).

As regards the level of education, 31 of the victims did not attend school, 44 finished 1 - 4 years of schooling, 56 between 5 and 8, 14 between 9 and 12, and 1 person graduated from a vocational school.

91 of the victims exploited for begging came from the rural area (62% of the identified cases), 53 from the urban area (37%) and 2 victims from Bucharest.

In relation to the counties of origin for victims exploited for begging (fig.26), 52 of the victims (36%) were residing in Brasov (with 77% of the victims coming from the rural area). Other counties were Caras-Severin (16), Arges (13), Mehedinti (11) and Alba (11).

„I was promised they would take me abroad and have surgery to make me walk on my own feet. Now I can't walk but with my crutches. I also took my wife with me who is in a wheelchair. When we reached our destination, they accommodated us in a room together with other individuals I hadn't met before. I couldn't go to the bathroom. The next day, they took us out in the street to beg.”

„If I couldn't bring anything that day, they would beat me in the head and foot-chained outside in the cold and rain or wind.. I don't want to remember anything. I have forgotten everything.”



Fig. 25. Reporting of victims forced into begging identified in 2007 by country of destination²⁸.

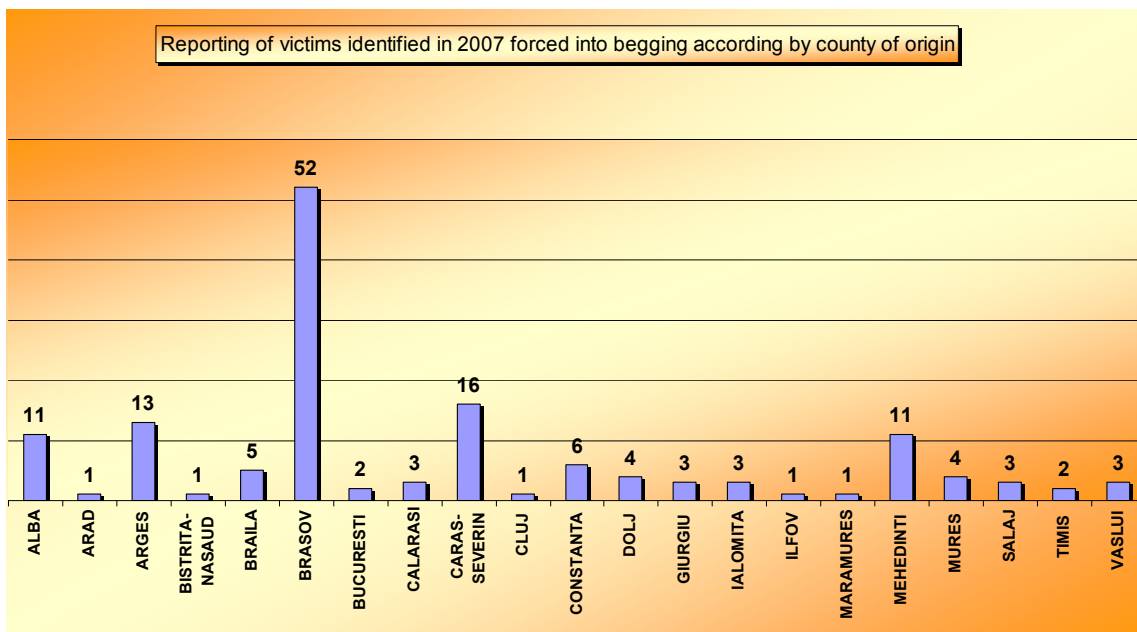


Fig.26. Reporting of victims forced into begging identified in 2007 by county of origin

²⁸The difference to the total number results from the re-trafficking situations.

1.6 Trafficking period

Depending on the exploitation method and with regard to **the period in the year when the exploitation began**, significant variations in the number of victims involved in trafficking can be noticed. This aspect is extremely relevant in the case of labour exploitation where the busiest trafficking periods are the months in which the lucrative activities for victims 'exploitation are preferably carried out. Because these are seasonal activities, e.g. agriculture, construction and hotel services, the periods when the number of exploited victims can reach maximum values are **February - April** and **July - September**, while during **October - December** it significantly diminishes. (fig.27)

In the case of *sexual exploitation*, the **periodicities** are no longer that obvious, in the sense that the number of victims according to the month in the year the exploitation began varies less. Yet, one can notice a reduction in the number of victims exploited starting with the winter months, respectively **November - January**.

Another major aspect in the trafficking in persons analysis is the trafficking period (fig.28). In accordance with this indicator, there are significant differences between the two main exploitation methods, respectively sexual and labour.

Therefore, the majority of labour victims identified in 2007; respectively **79%** were exploited for 3 months at the most (22% for even less than a month) and only 4% were trafficked for more than one year.

With reference to victims of **sexual exploitation**, the situation is rather different: though more than half of them, (**53%**) were exploited for less than 3 months (17% for less than 1 month), yet, almost one third of them (32%) were trafficked for 3 to 12 months. At the same time, a higher percentage (16%), as compared with the labour exploitation, was exploited for over 1 year.

The differences can be explained, firstly, by the exploitation method itself, because, as previously stated, labour exploitation implies seasonal activities (agriculture, construction, hotel industries). At the same time, these activities are not carried out within completely isolated premises; therefore, there are more opportunities to break out of the trafficking situation than in the case of sexual exploitation, particularly when larger groups of people are involved, sometimes related to each other.

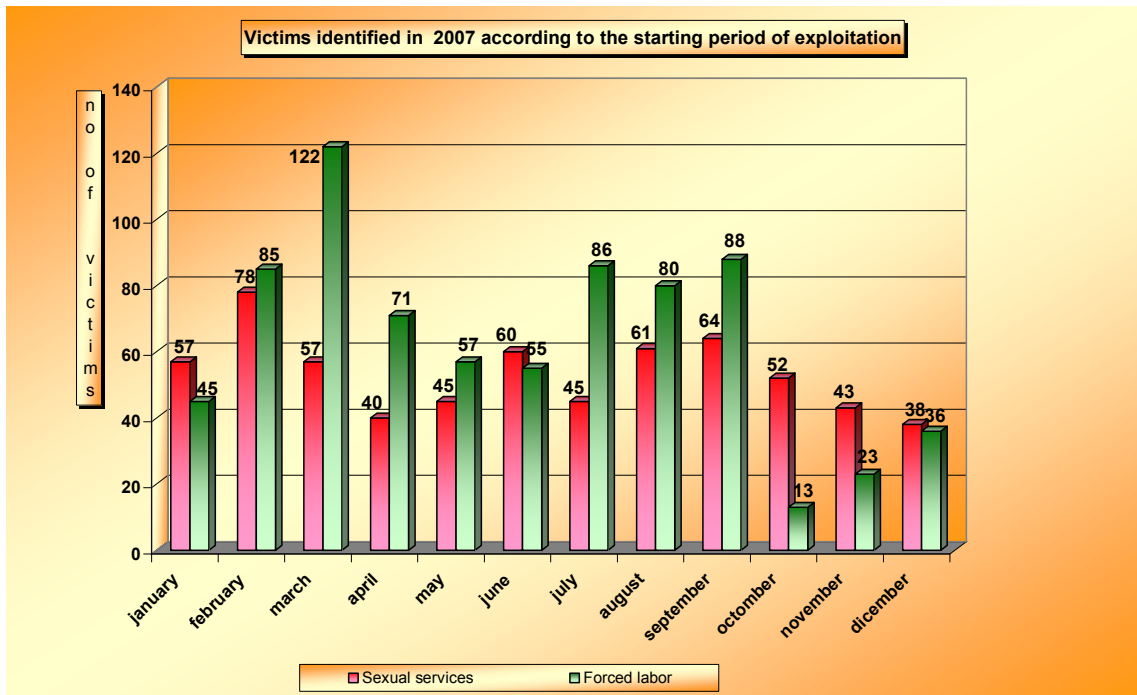


Fig. 27. Reporting of victims of forced labour or sexual services identified in 2007 according to the starting period of exploitation²⁹

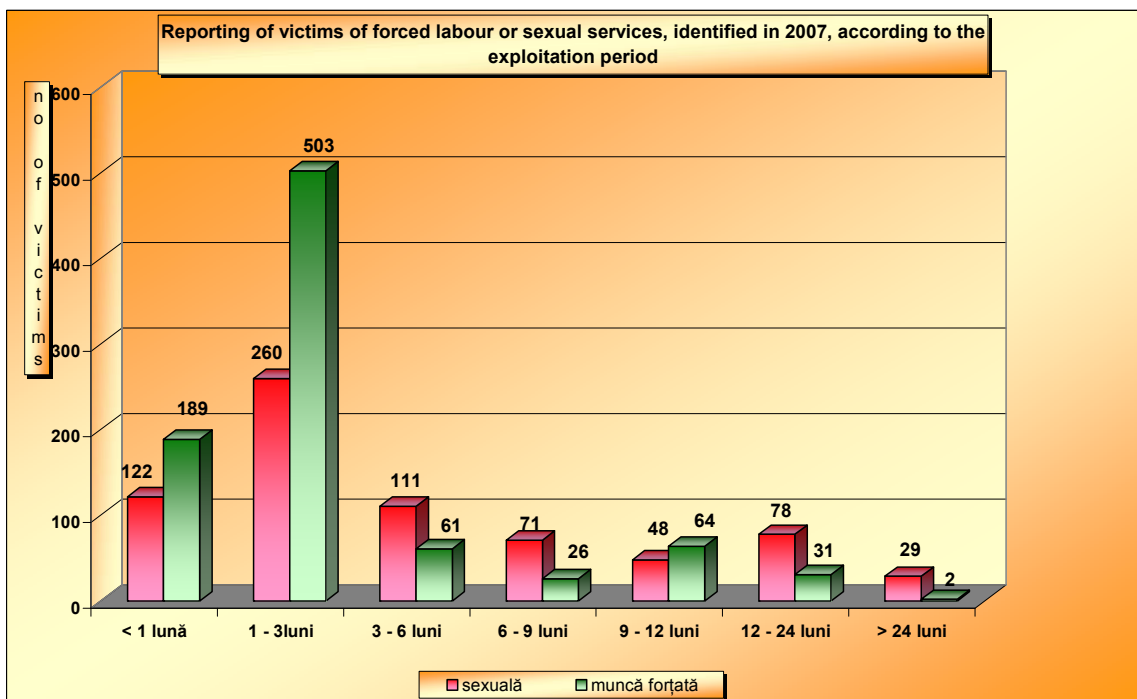


Fig.28. Reporting of victims of forced labour or sexual services identified in 2007 according to the exploitation period³⁰

²⁹The differences to the total number result from cases where there is no exact information about the entry data into trafficking.

³⁰The differences to the total number result from cases where there is no exact information about the trafficking period.

Another aspect not to be overlooked is the *victim profiling*; most of the victims of labour trafficking are adult males with a physical and mental ability to resist, react and escape; unlikely, victims exploited for commercial sex are generally women who, in most of the cases, even when exploited in the streets, are alone and have no one from their community of origin to trust and rely on in case they try to resist and break out of the trafficking situation. Moreover, breaking out also implies the women's disclosure of the sexual abuse situation they were held in which shall affect the way they act and perceive themselves. In addition to that, the level of violence in sexual exploitation related cases can be much higher and the trafficking experience may imply multiple types of abuse that makes the trauma have a much more serious impact upon the victims' mental health.

1.7 Countries of destination

1.7.1 Italy

As compared with 2006 when 466 victims were identified in Italy, in 2007 the number has been almost maintained, **469 victims**.

64% of these were females and **36%** males (fig. 29).

Most of the woman victims, 148 (**49%**) were age **18 - 25**, 84 (**28%**) age 14 - 17, 69 victims (**23%**) **over 26**, and 1 victim in the 10 -13 age category³¹.

Most of the male victims, 115 (**68%**) were **over 26 years old**, 40 (**24%**) between 18 and 25, and 13 (**8%**) between 14 and 17.

The **level of education** of victims exploited in Italy is also relevant: 31 victims finished 1-4 schooling years (7%), 206 between 5 to 8 (44%), 153 of the victims between 9 to 12 (33%), 61 graduated from a vocational school (13%), 14 victims had no schooling (3%), and 4 received higher education (less than 1%).

251 (**54%**) of all victims trafficked to Italy resided in localities situated in the **rural area**, 217 (**46%**) came from the **urban area** and **1** from Bucharest (fig. 30).

The main counties with the highest number of victims trafficked to Italy are: Salaj, Neamt, Mehedinti, Mures, Galati, Botosani, Cluj, Dolj, Bihor, Suceava, Olt, Iasi, Constanta, Giurgiu and Vaslui (fig.30).

³¹ The difference in total results from the re-trafficking situations. One of the female victims was re-trafficked at different ages; in both situations exploitation took place in Italy, therefore the centralized data system processed each individual case separately.

Reporting of victims trafficked in Italy according to age and gender

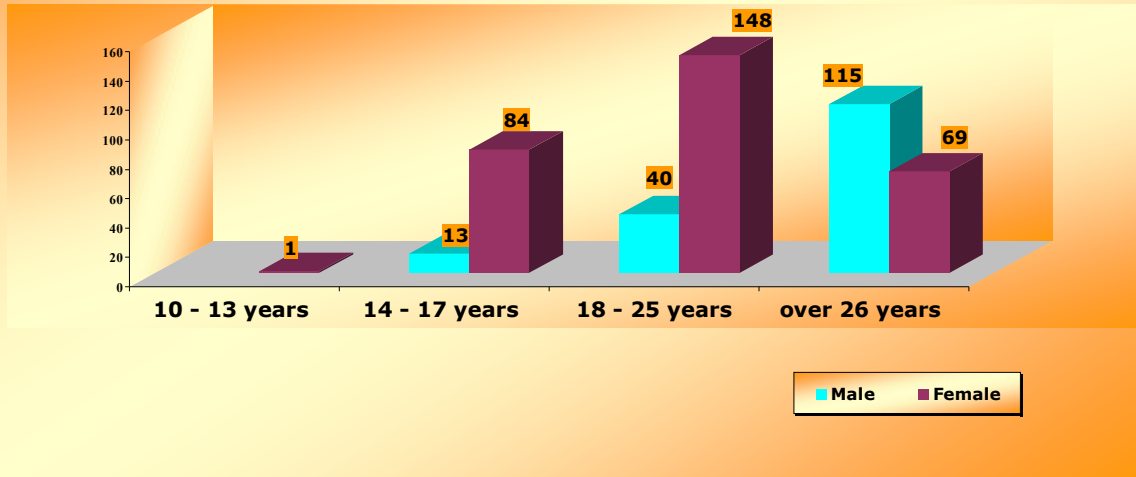


Fig.29. Reportable victims trafficked to Italy by age and gender

Reporting of victims trafficked in Italy, distribution by county and area of residence

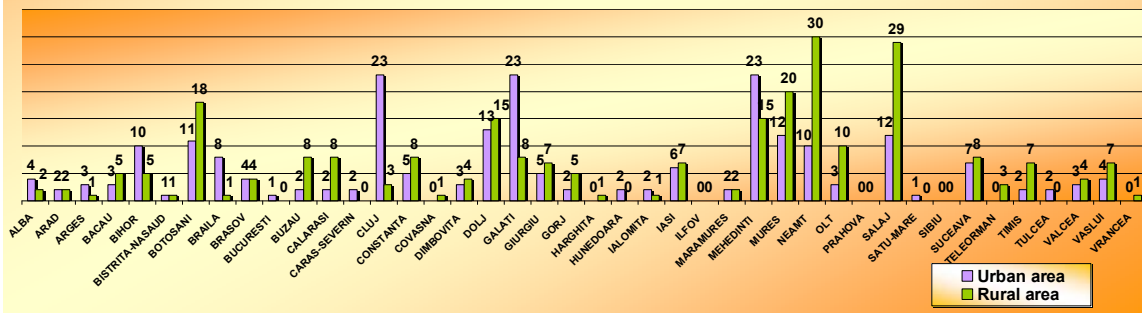


Fig.30. Reportable victims trafficked to Italy by county and area of residence

It is an alarming fact that 239 (79%) of the 301 women trafficked to Italy were exploited for **sexual services**. For most of them (181 victims), the exploitation occurred **in the street**, 34 were exploited in *dwelling*s, 15 in *clubs*, 6 in *hotels* and 3 in *brothels*. Another 24 female victims were exploited for labour in agriculture, 18 in hotel industries, and 15 for begging and 1 victim was forced to commit thefts ³²(fig. 31).

The majority of male victims (144 - 86%) were exploited for **forced labour**, mainly in agriculture (118), construction (22) and hotel industries (4).

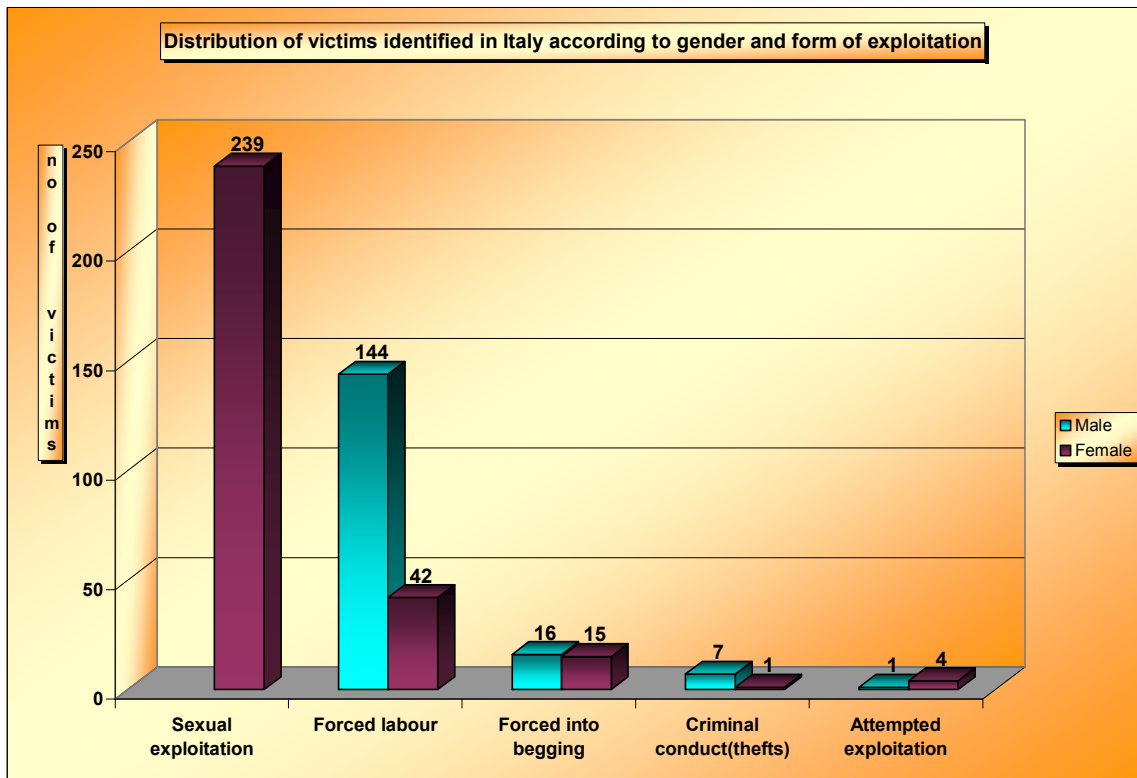


Fig. 31. Reporting of victims exploited in Italy by exploitation form and gender

Despite the visible cases of trafficking for labour in agriculture, traffickers in Italy are targeting mainly women and children for sexual exploitation.

With reference to their status in trial, of the 469 victims trafficked to Italy in 2007, 346 victims filed charges against their traffickers, 97 choose to testify as witnesses, while 24 decided not to get involved. In this way, over 94% of all trafficking victims identified in Italy in 2007 were involved in investigations/trials against traffickers³³.

³² Other 4 cases were attempts to trafficking, they did not result in exploitation

³³For 2 victims the status in trial was not established

1.7.2. Spain

As compared with 2006 when police identified 576 victims of exploitation in Spain, in 2007 there were **458** reportable victims, indicating a downward trend. 252 (55%) of these were women and 206 (45%) were men (fig. 32).

Most of the **female** victims (165) were age **18 - 25 (65%)**, other 61 (24%) over 26 years of age, 25 victims (10%) age 14 -17, and 1 victim in the 10 -13 age category.

Most **male** victims (128) were **over 26 (62%** of the total of males trafficked to Spain), 72 (35% of the total of male victims) were age 18 - 25 and only 6 victims (3%) were under 18.

Out of the total of victims trafficked to Spain, 242 (53%) originated from the localities situated in the urban area, 207 (45%) were residing in the **rural** area and 9 (2%) of the victims came from Bucharest.

The distribution of victims trafficked to Spain by *level of education* (fig.33) shows that: 33 victims (7%) had 1 - 4 years of schooling, 186 (41%) finished 5- 8 schooling years, 179 (39%) between 9 to 12, 27 (6%) were graduates of a vocational school, 31 (7%) had no schooling and 2 victims received higher education.

The main counties with the highest number of victims trafficked to Spain are: Teleorman, Constanta, Ialomita, Bihor, Braila, Prahova, Arges, Mures, Olt and Vaslui (fig. 34).

Significantly, only 3 of these counties, Constanta, Bihor and Mures, are also main source counties for Italy, whereas, in cases of victims trafficked to Spain, the rest indicates a shift to the southern part of the country.

The county of Teleorman is special; a significant number of Romanian nationals trafficked to Spain (76) originated from there, in comparison with 2 other main counties of origin for trafficking victims: Constanta (53) and Ialomita (46). Most of the victims coming from the Teleorman County were exploited for forced labour in agriculture (60), only 9 in constructions and the other 7 in the sex industry. However, the same feature is to be found in cases of victims coming from the county of Ialomita with the majority of them exploited in agriculture.

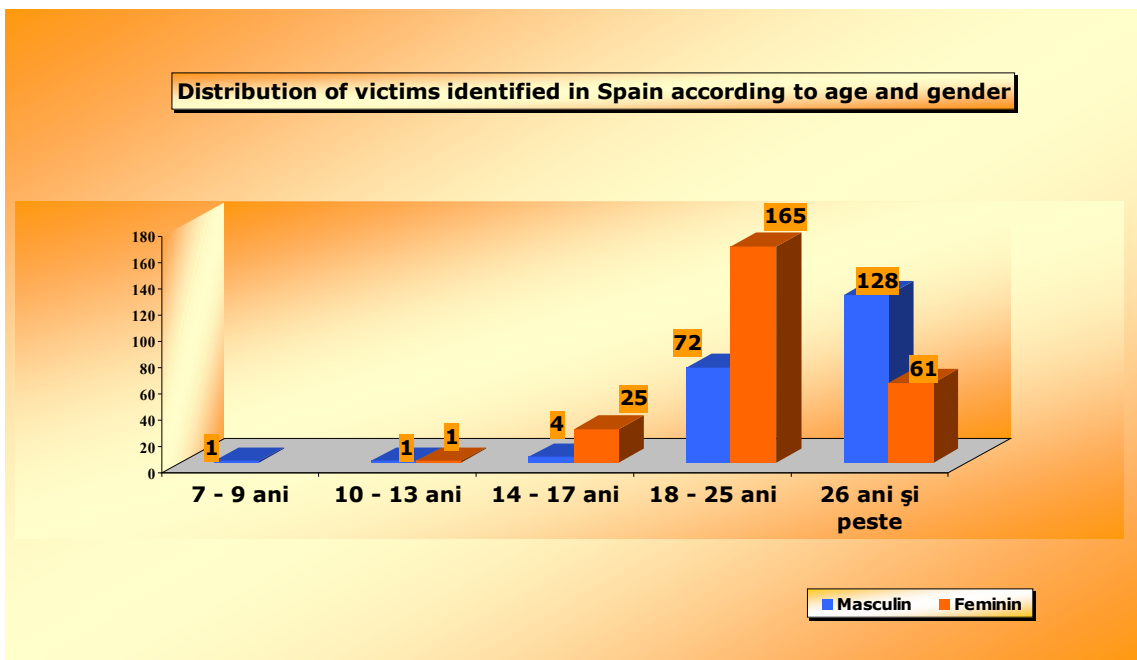


Fig. 32. Reporting of victims exploited in Spain identified in 2007 by age category and gender.

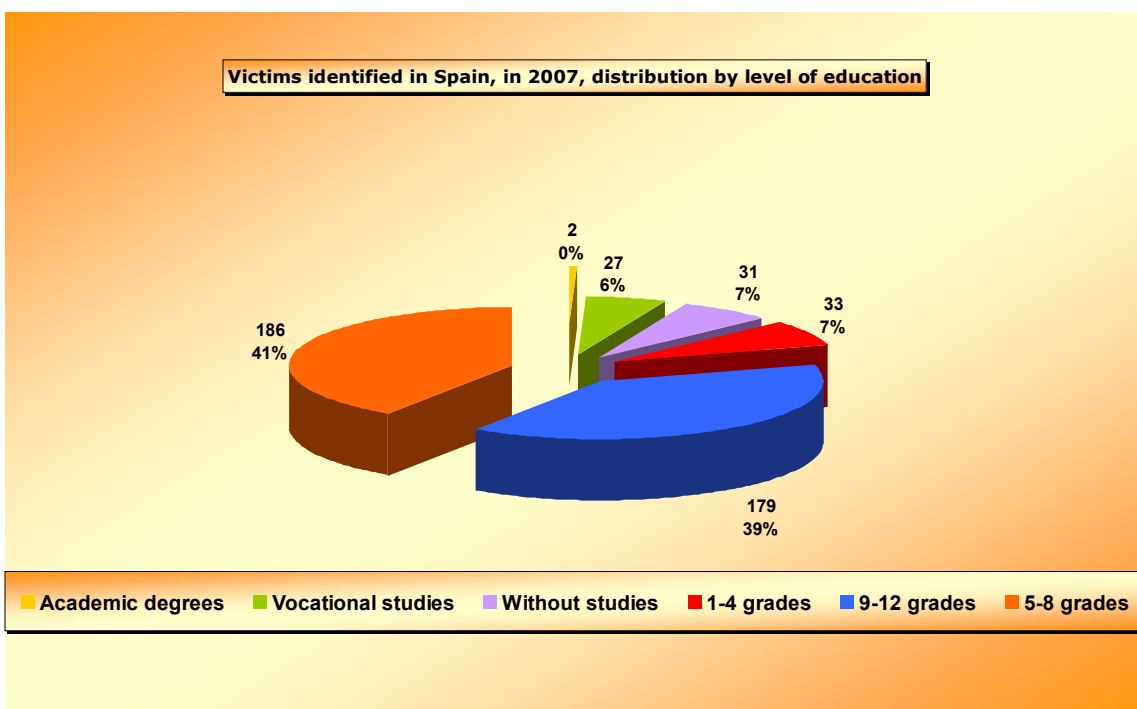


Fig.33. Reporting of victims exploited in Spain identified in 2007 by level of education

With reference to the forms of exploitation the Romanian nationals trafficked to Spain fell victims to, **244 were victims of labour exploitation** (230 in agriculture and 14 in constructions). Most of the male victims were exploited for forced labour (198), similarly to the cases of victims exploited in Italy. Another **199 victims** (79% of the total of female victims exploited in Spain) were victims of **sexual exploitation** and 46 women (18%) were trafficked forced labourers. There were also identified **12** victims of trafficking for begging (4 women and 8 men); 3 victims did not enter the exploitation stage (fig.35).

Unlike Italy, most of the sexually exploited victims in Spain worked in clubs (123 victims, 62% of the total of victims sexually exploited in Spain), in the streets (56 victims, 28%), in dwellings (15 victims, 8%) and in brothels (5 victims, 2%); this is an indication that the orientation of the sexual services market differs from one country to another³⁴.

As regards the status in trial of victims exploited in Spain, 351 of the 458 victims identified in 2007 brought civil suits against their traffickers, 72 choose to testify as witnesses in criminal actions and 32 victims decided not to get involved in the trial³⁵. Overall, 92% of the exploited victims identified in Spain decided to get involved in investigations/trials against traffickers.

In conclusion, Italy and Spain are main destination countries for the trafficking of Romanian nationals; to the same extent, both of them are also main countries for Romanians to migrate to, due to the similarity of languages and the presence of large Romanian communities. At the same time, the context is favorable to traffickers too, by enabling them to better dissimulate their criminal enterprises.

³⁴Both in Spain and Italy brothels were shut down; most of the brothels in Spain are still operational disguised as “whiskerias” or clubs, while in Italy street prostitution is on the increase.

³⁵ The status in trial for 3 victims was not established.

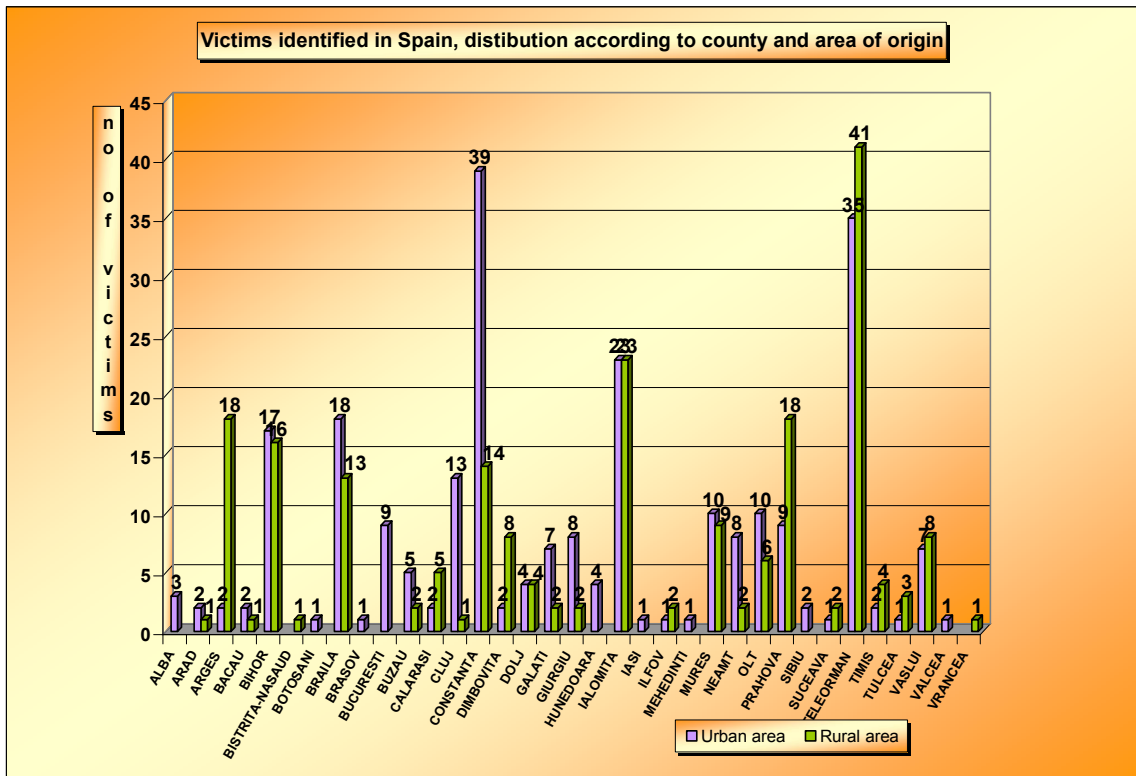


Fig. 34. Reporting of victims exploited in Spain identified in 2007 by county and area of residence

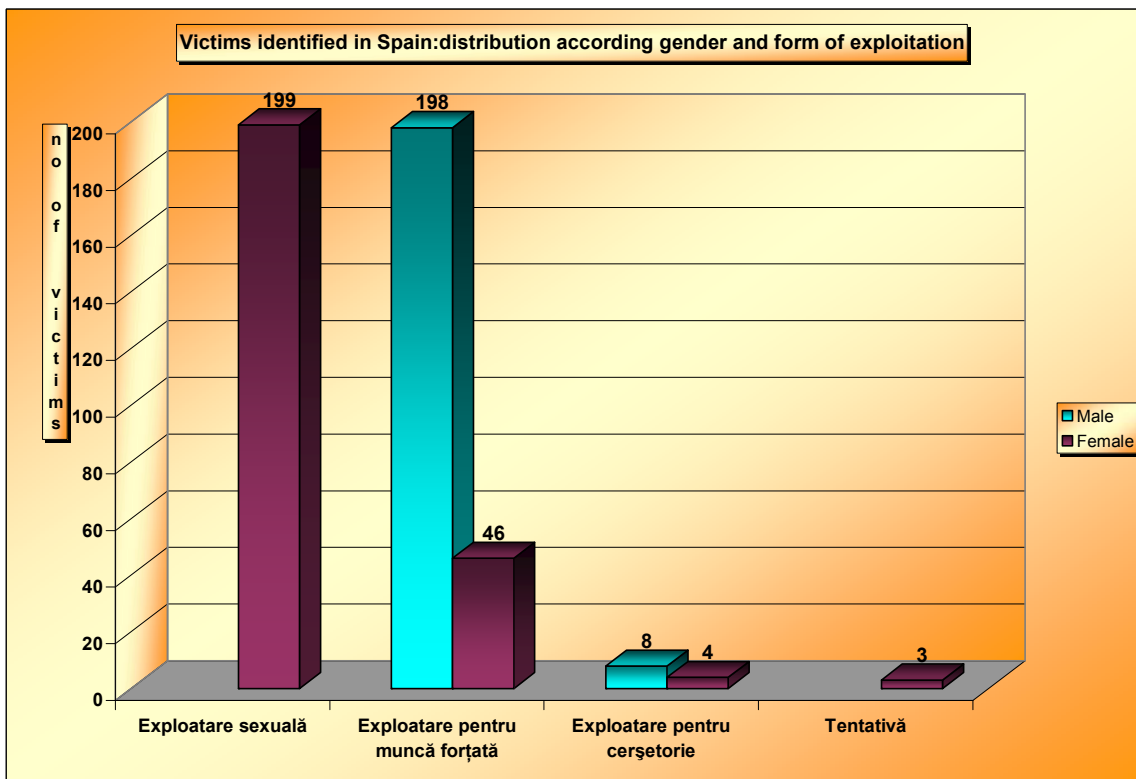


Fig. 35. Reporting of victims exploited in Spain identified in 2007 by form of exploitation and gender

1.7.3. The Czech Republic

Trafficking of Romanian nationals to the Czech Republic represents a special and worrying case. If in 2006 only 26 victims were identified, in 2007 their number raised to 242.

222 of the total victims identified in this country were **males (92%)** and 20 (8%) were females. According to their age group and gender (fig.36), 170 victims (70%) were **over 26 of age**, 157 of these males and 13 females. 67 victims (28%) were age **18 -25** (60 men, 7 women), and **5** male victims were **minors**.

„Through the use of the database, ANITP was the first to identify an increase in labor trafficking of Romanians to the Czech Republic, and disseminate the information to law enforcement and policy officials. The national database is an effective tool for targeting trafficking trends and serves as a model for other countries”.
(US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2008*).

Unlike the trafficking victims exploited in Italy, Spain or in other countries, **in the majority of cases, victims trafficked to the Czech Republic were exploited for labour in constructions** (180 persons with 178 of them males) **and agriculture** (57 persons of whom 43 males), (fig.37).

Of the 20 women trafficked to the Czech Republic, 14 were exploited in agriculture, 2 in constructions and 2 in the hotel industry; only 2 cases of sexual exploitation were identified.

The *level of education* of trafficking victims in the Czech Republic becomes relevant considering the fact that 98% of them were exploited for labour (fig.38). Therefore, 16% had 1-4 years of schooling (39 victims), 5 - 8 years reported by 45% (106 victims) and 9-12 by 29% (69 victims);. 5% of the victims graduated from professional schools (13 victims) and a similar percentage for persons with no formal education (13 victims). Thus, 65% of the total number of victims exploited in the Czech Republic completed at the most the secondary school³⁶.

With regard to the distribution of victims trafficked to the Czech Republic according to the **area of origin**, 59% were residing in localities situated in the rural area and 41% came from the urban area (fig. 39).

Most of the victims exploited in this country and identified during 2007 came from the following *counties*: **Botosani (63)**, Mures (33), Dolj (27), Arges (18), Constanta (18), Bacau (17), Alba (13) and Maramures (10). In this case, too, the number of victims originating from Botosani is higher as compared to the other counties (fig. 39).

³⁶The level of education for two of the victims exploited in this country could not be established

Victims identified in Czech Republic, distribution according gender and age

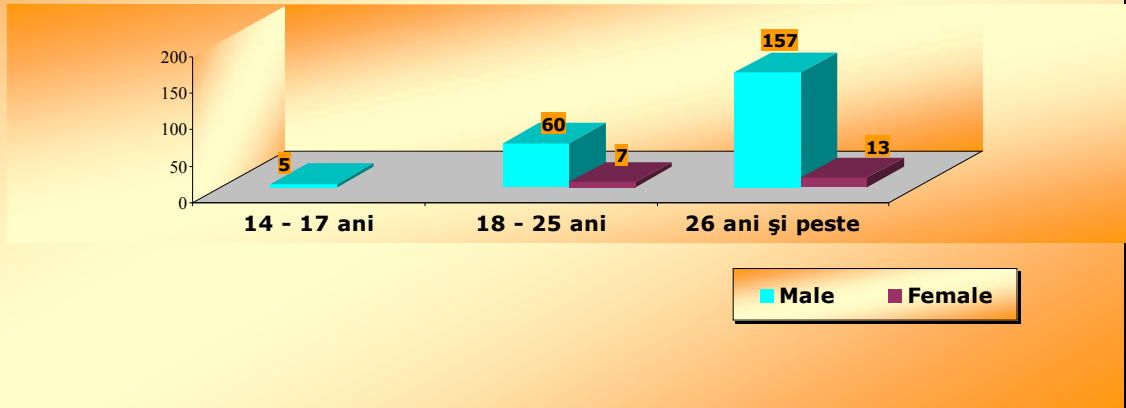


Fig. 36. Reporting of victims exploited in the Czech Republic identified in 2007 by age and gender

Victims identified in Spain, in 2007, distribution according gender and form of exploitation

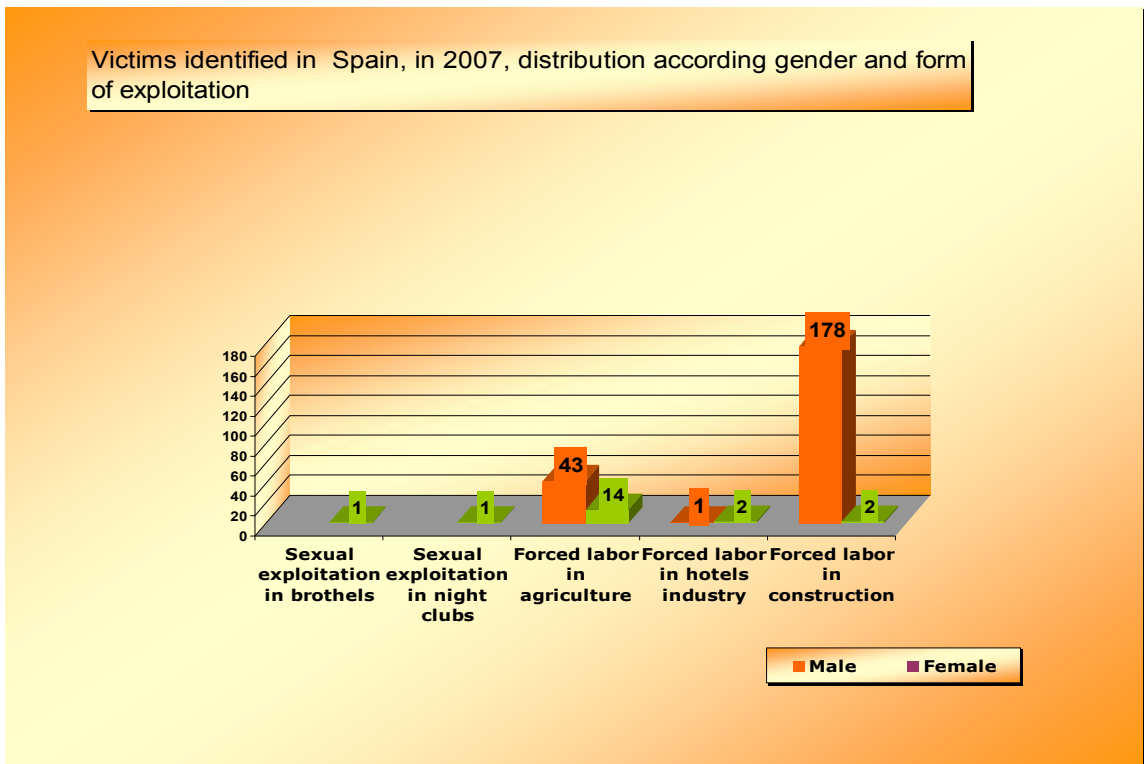


Fig. 37. Reporting of victims exploited in the Czech Republic identified in 2007 by form of exploitation and gender

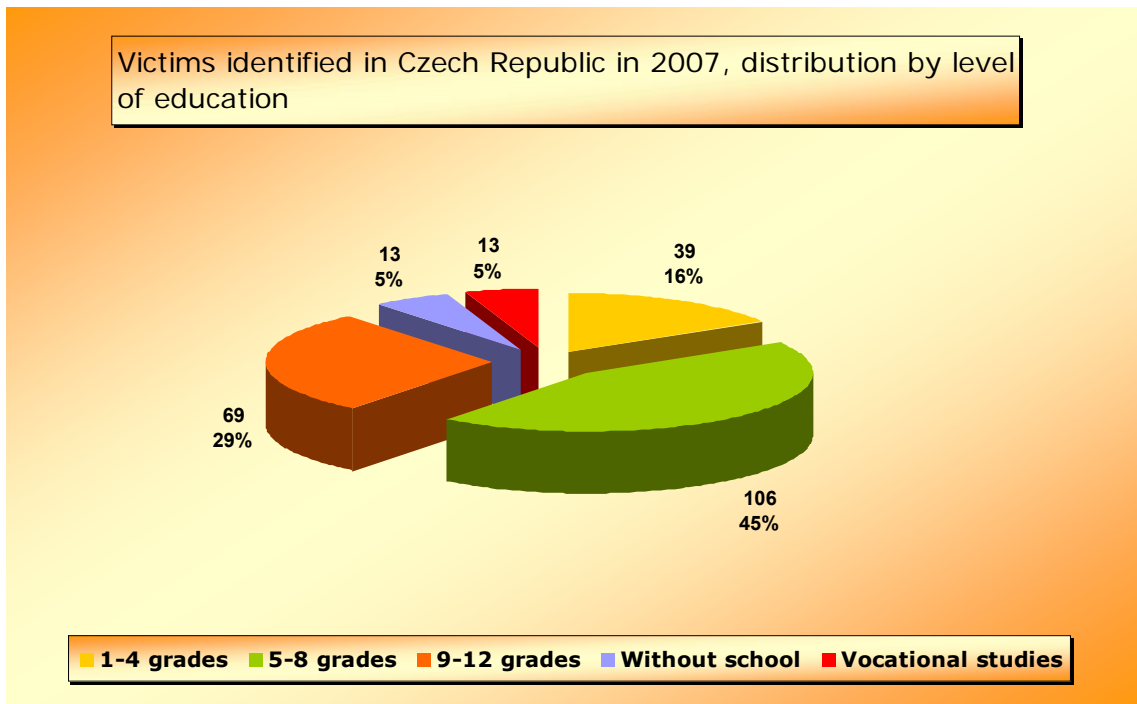


Fig. 38. Reporting of victims exploited in the Czech Republic identified in 2007 by level of education

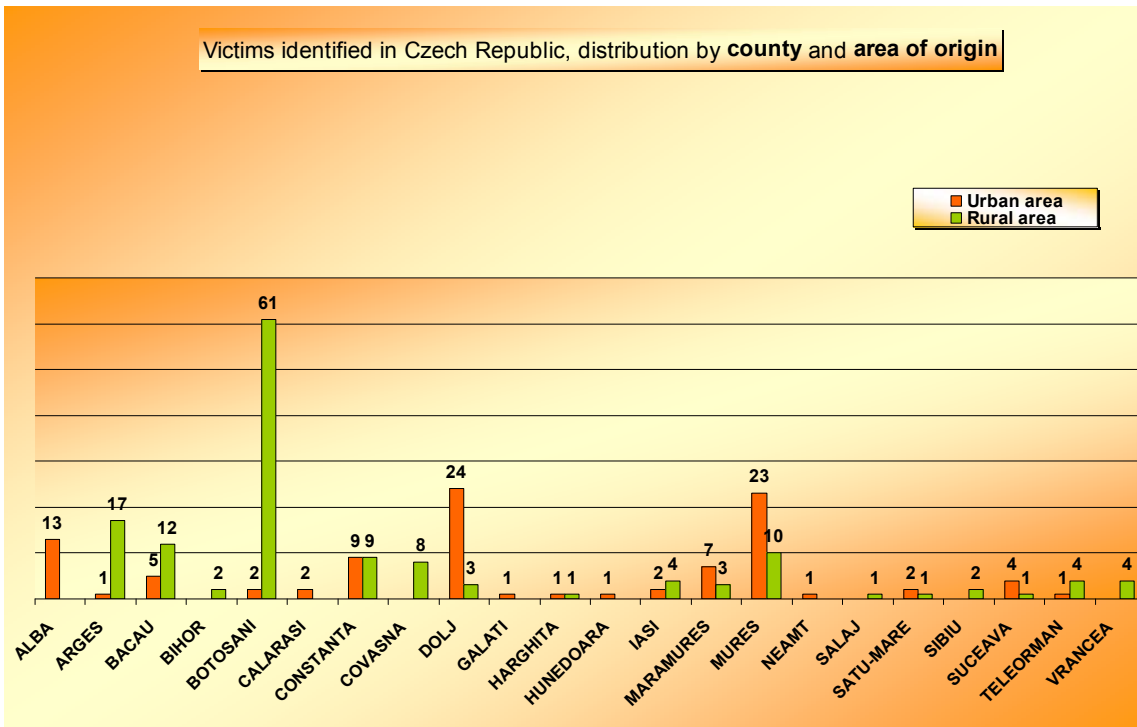


Fig. 39. Reporting of victims exploited in the Czech Republic identified in 2007 by county and area of residence

225 of the 242 victims trafficked to the Czech Republic filled charges against their traffickers, 15 decided to testify as witness in trials against traffickers, while only 2 victims refused to get involved in criminal proceedings.

Thus, 99% of the trafficking victims in the Czech Republic choose to cooperate in the course of the investigations/criminal proceedings against traffickers. Yet, mention should be made that, by the end of 2007, the Czech authorities had received no complaints against traffickers from any of the victims. Later on, during the visit of the Romanian governmental delegation to the Czech Republic, the discussions enabled the two parties to find out solutions in order to facilitate the identification of Romanian victims in the Czech Republic, the provision of support services for the victims and their participation in trials against traffickers³⁷.

Given the fact that, until recently, the Czech Republic has not been a main destination for the trafficking of Romanian nationals, the situation recorded in 2007 is a result of an intense criminal activity that is at present the focus of attention of specialist agencies³⁸.

1.7.4. ROMANIA (internal trafficking)

In 2007, **207** victims (12% of the total of identified victims) were trafficked within the country borders for the purpose of various forms of exploitation.

The distribution of the 207 Romanian victims according to *age group* and *gender* shows the alarming fact that most of them (**129 victims - 62% of the total identified victims**), were **minors** aged 6 – 17; of these, 118 girls and 11 boys³⁹ (fig. 40).

In addition, **78 adult victims** of trafficking were identified as exploited in Romania. The structure of the adult victim population shows that 15 of them were males and 63 females.

The 18-25 age category includes mostly *women*, 57 victims (73% of the adult population) and 1 (1%), 14 *male* victims (18%) and 6 *females* (8%) were over 26 years of age.

³⁷In 2008, ANITP played an active role; together with the Czech partners, respectively the Czech Ministry of the Interior and financially supported by the European Commission Office for Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), the Agency was successful in training Romanian specialists to assist the Czech authorities, upon their request, in providing assistance to Romanian victims and encouraging them to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies in both countries when necessary.

³⁸See chapter Combating Trafficking

³⁹Data on child internal exploitation are to be found in the subchapter regarding trafficking in children

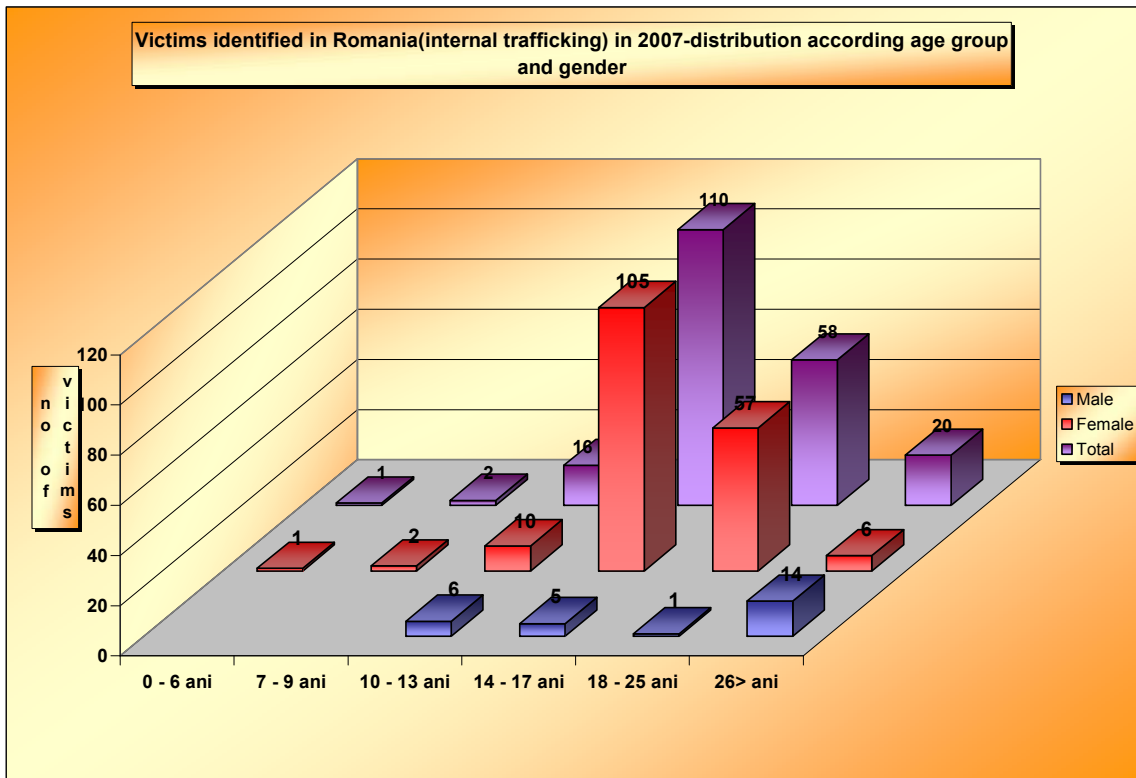


Fig.40. Reporting of victims exploited in Romania (internal trafficking) identified in 2007 by age and gender

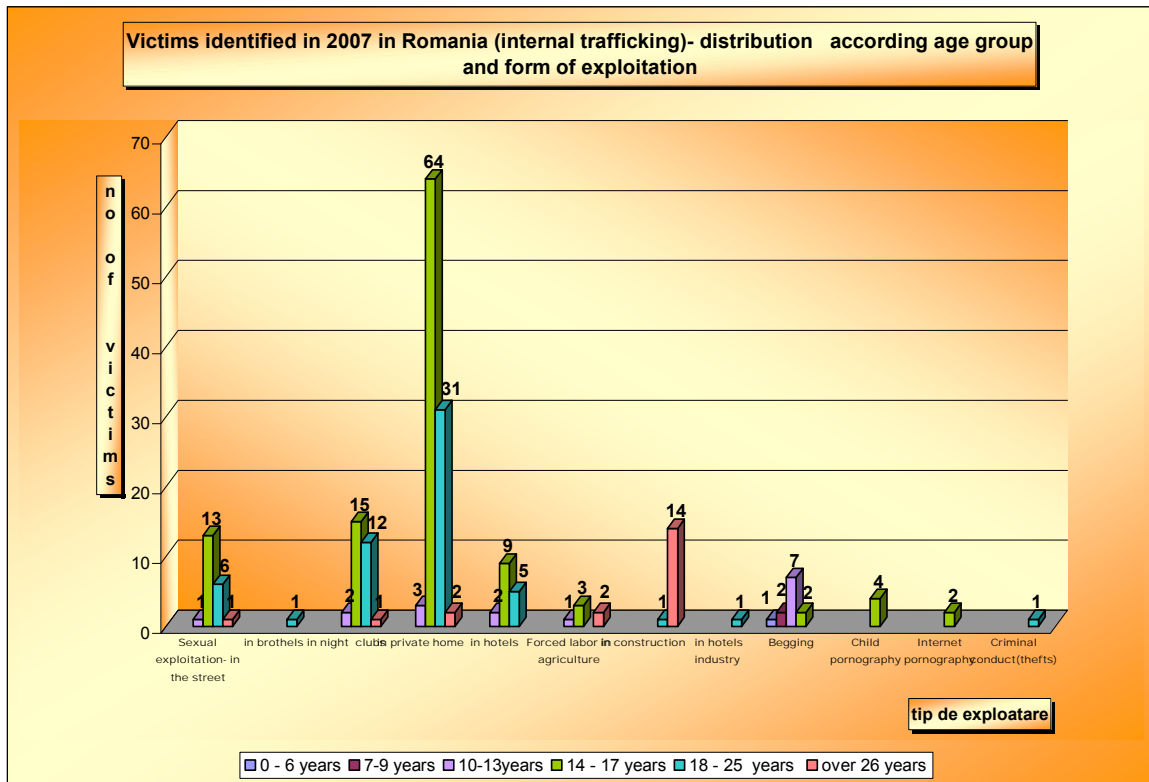


Fig.41. Reporting of victims exploited in Romania (internal trafficking) identified in 2007 by age group and form of exploitation

Most of the adult victims of internal trafficking were *exploited for sexual services* (59 victims, 74% of the total (fig. 41); of these 33 worked in private dwellings, 13 in clubs, 7 in the streets, 5 in hotels and 1 in clandestine brothels. 3 of the victims exploited in Romania were trafficked to another country as well: 2 to Spain (1 victim both to Spain and Turkey) and 1 to Germany.

18 adults were internally trafficked for *labour*: 15 in construction, 2 in agriculture, 1 in the hotel industry. One internally trafficked victim, age 18, was forced to commit thefts.

The distribution of adult victims according to the **level of education** indicates that 2 victims (2.5%) received no formal education and 7 victims (9%) had 1-4 schooling years. Most of the victims have an average level of education: 35 victims (45%) completed 5-8 years of schooling and 26 victims (33%) between 9 and 12. Another 6 victims (8%) graduated from a vocational school and 2 (2.5%) received higher education.

The counties of origin for adult trafficking victims exploited in Romania are: Olt (16), Neamt (7), Iasi, Cluj, Arges, Tulcea and Dambovita with 5 victims each, Bacau, Gorj, Prahova with 3 victims in each county, Vaslui, Constanta, Alba, Harghita and Buzau with 2 victims each; the victims come proportionally both from the rural and urban areas (fig. 42).

The national database on victims of trafficking shows that, in the case of internal trafficking victims, Bucharest is a main destination for exploitation, even though only 2 victims come from the city. Iasi is one of the main counties of origin for internally trafficking victims (21 victims, 16 minors and 5 adults); this is an indication both of the high vulnerability of victims, particularly children, originating from this county and the high rate of trafficking related crime.

To sum up, Romania is **ranked fourth** as country of destination for the trafficking of Romanian nationals and offers specific characteristics, such as: **women victimization** (87% of the victims are women) particularly **minors** (62% are under 18, the largest part in the **14 -17** age category) for the purpose of **commercial sexual exploitation** (80% of the cases).

A general view of the phenomenon shows that about one in four sexually trafficked Romanian victims is exploited internally which ranks Romania **third** as country of destination for the sexual exploitation of Romanian trafficking victims.

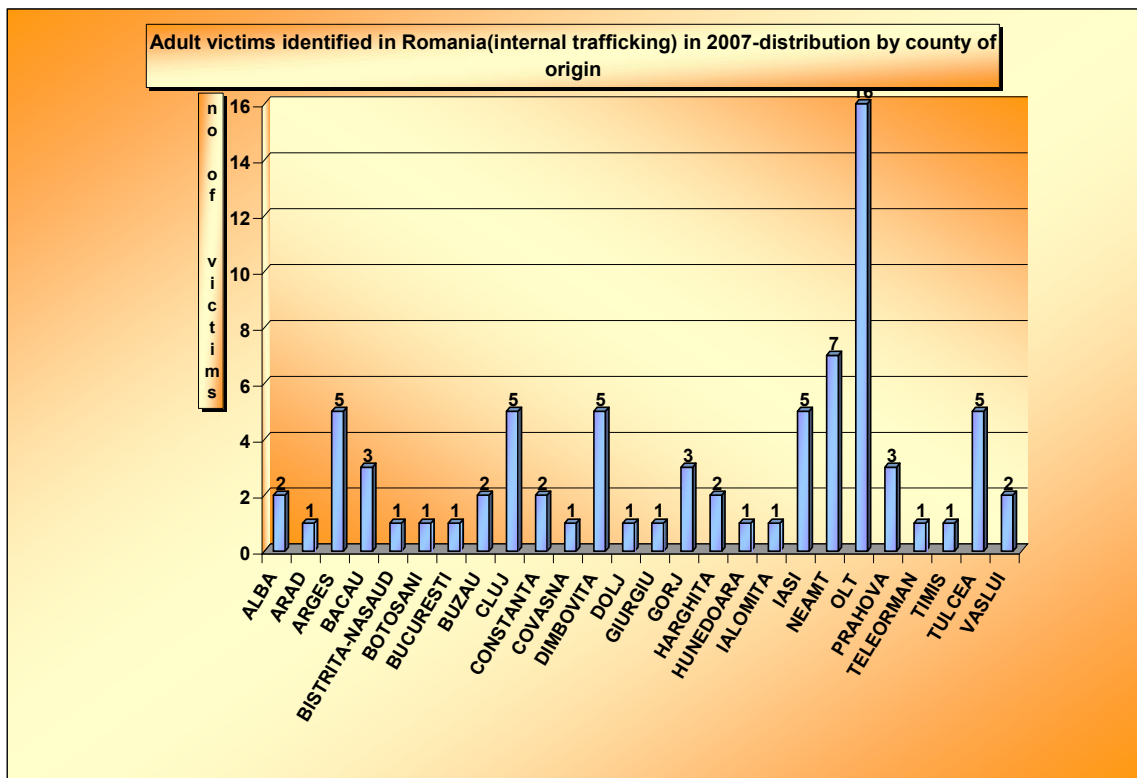


Fig. 42. Reporting of victims exploited in Romania (internal trafficking) identified in 2007 by county of origin.

Chapter 2

NATIONAL INTEGRATED SYSTEM TO MONITOR AND ASSESS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The social reality generated by the existence and implications of the trafficking in persons phenomenon led to the necessity of designing and developing a centralized national data system on the phenomenon including statistical data on both anti-trafficking measures and prevention of and assistance to victims with respect to their social reintegration.

The national system was entirely developed by the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) and became fully operational in January 2007.

The operation of the monitoring and assessment system enables to:

- receive and process trafficked victims' personal data with a view to their identification and expeditious referral to specialized support services;
- monitor the assistance provided to victims;
- understand the size and dynamics of the trafficking in persons phenomenon.

From a technical point of view, the national system is a multilevel IT system, using a central data base, a data interrogation application and a user web interface.

The access to the National Data Base is granted to ANITP personnel only, respectively the Monitoring, Assessment and Research Service and the Regional Centers, as well as users from the institutions with which ANITP concluded collaboration protocols (Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime, within the Inspectorate General of the Romanian Police and the Inspectorate General of Border Police).

The users from the above mentioned partner institutions are provided access to the data base to input indicators relating to their specific activities. They can access only the data which are necessary in performing their lawful responsibilities; access is restricted as to the number of indicators and the number of persons. In this way, personal data shall be accessed only by the user who stored the respective information and statistical information shall be accessible, for specific indicators, on the chain of command levels.

In order to better control the information and the coherence of the statistical data, the right to delete or modify data is provided to a limited number of users and all operations on data are kept in journal type tables.

The data contained in the data base can be collected from other partner institutions as well, the NGOs, for example. These data are collected by operatives from the Regional Centers monitoring trafficked victims during the assistance process or, according to the case, the criminal procedures.

ANITP is a personal data operator, registration number 4916 with the National Authority to Supervise Processing of Personal Data and all users of the system have access

National Database Aids Rapid Response to Emerging TIP Trends

ANITP created a centralized national database for law enforcement personnel to input data on individual trafficking victims. This compilation of information..... is crucial for identifying and quickly responding to emerging trends in trafficking".
(US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2008)

„ ...We may conclude that in respect of the security and safety of the victims whose personal information is stored in your database, we have nothing to worry that this will get into the hands of unauthorized persons....., hackers, criminals, traffickers.” – Marius Popescu, TVRI

clearance to classified data. Data access is provided through the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform (MIRA) Data Voice Communication Network. During 2007, 90 headquarters and over 280 users were linked to the system.

Once all partner institutions had been connected to the national system, ANITP organized the training of the system users regarding the operation and exploitation of the application. The training sessions were attended by operatives from:

- Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime (DGCCO);
- Inspectorate General of Border Police (IGPB);
- Organized Crime Squads from Pitesti, Constanta, Galati and Craiova;
- Constanta Border Police Directorate;
- Border Police Inspectorates in Constanta, Galati, Tulcea and Braila.

The training sessions included:

- a general overview of the national integrated system to monitor and assess the trafficking in persons – aim, access levels, facilities;
- presentation about connection to the application and the user interface;
- detailed presentation of how to input victim related data;
- detailed presentation of opportunities to visualize data and statistical figures the users in partner institutions have access to.

The training process will continue in 2008 aimed at the continuous training of every staff member using the system.

The main difficulties the agency came across were related to the delays in reporting the data concerning some of the victims.

In order to obtain relevant information regarding the dynamics of the phenomenon a tool kit has been developed containing:

- ✓ victim's initial evaluation chart;
- ✓ victim's assistance chart.

Following the completion of the two charts the information obtained is confidential and classified as service secret.

A set of 70 indicators are laid down in the charts indicative of the multivariable analysis of the trafficking in persons phenomenon in Romania. 28 of the indicators are conjointly reported by specialized police structures, which can input information directly into the data application, thus avoiding identical data requests from the interviewed persons.

The intended indicators are divided into 6 categories:

- identification personal data, to avoid identical copies of case reports and to enable victim's situation monitoring;
- pre-trafficking period comprises indicators aimed at identifying individual socio-family factors (for example educational background or family status);
- recruitment and transportation aims to identify methods of the victim's recruitment and transportation (for example recruitment method or trafficker's social and demographic details);
- exploitation period aims to identify issues related to the type of exploitation;
- assistance period has in view the identification of referral methods and the case associated risk, or type of assistance the victim benefited from;
- post-assistance period assists in collecting information about the identified and/or assisted person's situation after the assistance period is completed.

„ Following what has been said here ... it results that at the moment the database under discussion could be considered one of the most thorough and complex in Europe and in the world”- Laura Vasiliu, Prima TV

The interface of the program enables the operational completion of the fields containing specific information obtained by professionals in their anti-trafficking and victim assistance activities.

The quantitative and qualitative cross analysis of the information obtained through responses from authorized operators provides the ANITP specialists a regular and complete picture of the dynamics of the trafficking phenomenon based on which they can develop conclusions and recommendations to prevent victimization and provide assistance to victims.

Most of the information contained in the present report has been supplied by it.

At the same time, the system has been a model of best practice in the field of the implementation of monitoring information systems; the National Agency for the Family Protection (ANPF) showed interest in taking over the model in order to develop the System to Record, Monitor and Manage Cases of Domestic Violence.

3.1. Emergency Ordinance 113/2007 to amend Law 211/2004 concerning measures to ensure protection to victims of crime

One of the most important victim support mechanisms contained in Law 211/2004 is related to the state financial compensation to victims.

The law establishes several categories of terms for direct or indirect victims of given crimes to be granted financial compensations; it also refers to the reporting of crimes to the authorities under certain time terms, taking into consideration that equity reasons impose financial compensation of victims with a minimum contribution in early crime detection (victims of less than 18 years of age and those under interdiction have no obligation to inform the authorities about the crimes). The law also provides the possibility of granting an advance of the financial compensation for victims of crime in distress.

In the context of the present report, the major amendment to this piece of legislation by the Emergency Ordinance 113/2007 is that victims of trafficking are stipulated among the categories of victims entitled to financial compensation. At the same time, the amendments provide victims the possibility to request, through the Ministry of Justice, financial compensations in transnational situations and state the ways by which a victim is entitled to compensation in case he/she committed a crime in a EU Member State, other than the state where the victim is a legal resident.

During the period under review, ANITP enhanced its actions to improve the legal and institutional framework in the anti-trafficking and victim social assistance and rehabilitation fields. Therefore, 7 legislative drafts (higher level and internal documents) were developed and subsequently approved, according to the case, by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration Reform (MIRA). Four of the drafts have already been passed into legislation as government decisions, orders of ministers and ANITP president's decisions.

3.2. Legal norms approved in 2007:

1. Government Decision 1238/10 October 2007 to approve the *National Standards for Specialized Assistance Services provided to trafficking victims*⁴⁰

The Standards enable the implementation of an individualized response by meeting each victim's specific needs, thus creating the premises of an operational and outstanding mechanism for the protection of and assistance to victims with a view to their social reintegration.

The draft of the Government Decision was developed by taking into consideration the provisions of article 3, section (1), paragraph (d) regarding the set up, organization and operation of ANITP, subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as the provisions contained in the *National Action Plan 2006-2007* to implement the *National Strategy on Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010*, approved by Government Decision 1720/2006.

⁴⁰The draft initiated by MIRA and Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities (MMFES)

2. Joint Order by competent ministers and agency presidents – Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform (MIRA), Ministry of Education, Research and Youth (MECT), Ministry of Public Health (MSP), Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities (MMFES), National Authority for the Protection of Child Right (ANPDC), National Agency for Gender Equality (ANES), National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), National Agency for Roma (ANR)- to set up, organize and bring into operation the Thematic Working Group to nationally co-ordinate activities for the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking.

The document approved by order MIRA 286/2007 was published in the Official Journal, Part I, no. 799/23.11.2007;

The Thematic Working Group aims to promote a more pragmatic approach of the difficulties encountered in the process of social assistance and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Due to the nature of the trafficking experience, multiple types of exploitation victims are subjected to through worst forms of abuse, as well as the victims' social problems and their risk for re-victimization – as vulnerability factors – there was necessary to define an inter-institutional framework with the primary responsibility to facilitate the coordination of actions to be taken in order to improve victims' assistance.

3. ANITP President Decision 1/30.10.2007 to approve the National Interest Program to improve assistance provided to victims

The European Commission monitoring Report, published in September 2006, makes the recommendation as to the need to adopt measures regarding the trafficked persons' social reintegration. The US Department of State TIP Report 2006 issued on 5 June 2007, highlights the improvements that could be done both in the field of anti-trafficking and victims assistance, with special emphasis on:

- limited financial government support provided to NGOs involved in the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking;
- need for better cooperation between the authorities and the NGOs and their financial support.

Under these circumstances, launching programs of national interest was necessary for the improvement of the protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking in view of their social reintegration and aimed at financially assist NGOs involved in the victim protection and assistance process by granting government non-reimbursable funds.

4. ANITP President Decision 4/2007 to approve assessment and authorization indicators of trafficking in persons preventive projects

The Decision was published in the Official Journal 837/6.12.2007. The criteria for reference aim to facilitate procedures to assess and select projects submitted to ANITP for financing as required by the law. In addition, ANITP shall use the indicators to assess the opportunity to support the organizations to submit projects to various sponsors and for the implementation of which they request the ANITP assistance.

3.3. Drafts of legal norms pending approval

5. Draft to amend Law 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons

The draft was successively amended following consultations with the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform (MIRA). The draft was developed with the support of

the institution members of the Inter-ministerial Group to coordinate and assess the anti-trafficking activities, set up in accordance with Regulations for Applications of Law 678/2001, subsequently amended and supplemented, approved by Government Decision no. 299/2003. The document aimed at promoting, inter alia, issues such as:

- increasing the Agency's responsibilities in carrying out activities to prevent, protect and assist victims of trafficking;
- introducing the definition of "victim of trafficking";
- buying or selling a human being shall also be regarded as a trafficking in persons criminal offence;
- sanctions shall be applied to conventional persons involved in the commission of offences referred to in Law 678/2001;
- setting up a safe house to accommodate victims of trafficking within the system for victim protection and assistance with respect to social reintegration. The alternative to deliver residential assistance to victims of trafficking is supported by the necessity to provide a safe environment against the traffickers' threats. To this end, safe houses are recommended in order to ensure the victims' privacy of residence as well as his/her protection for a determined period;
- the establishment, under the coordination of Directorates General of Child Welfare and Protection, of assistance services for adult victims of trafficking;
- cooperation between institutions and organizations working in the field with a view to develop a National Mechanism for Victim of Trafficking Identification and Referral;
- introduction of the right of the victims mentioned in the project to free legal assistance.

6. Draft of Government Decision to approve the National Action Plan 2008-2010 for the implementation of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010⁴¹.

The National Action Plan contains relevant overall information, definition of the problem and the main action fields and strategic objectives. The objectives, general and specific, are presented in detail, as well as actions, responsible parties, resources, timetable, monitoring and assessment, and assessment indicators.

7. Draft of the Joint Order by competent ministers and agency presidents – Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform, Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities, National Authority for the Protection of Child Right, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prosecutor General and Ministry of Justice to approve the *National Referral Mechanism for Victim Identification*⁴².

The mechanism referred to aims to adopt a unitary system to identify victims of trafficking and their referral to assistance service providers with clear responsibilities for all concerned institutions.

In this way, Romania will be among the first EU Member States to bring such a mechanism into operation.

⁴¹The draft was approved by all signatory institutions and is at present pending Government approval

⁴²The project is now with the Public Ministry for signature; the Ministry of Justice will then sign it, too

Chapter 4 PREVENTION OF TRAFICKING IN PERSONS

4.1. National programs and projects

4.1.1. National campaigns

1. Be careful! There's a price to pay! national campaign, initiated at the end of 2006 and implemented throughout January – June 2007, aimed to raise the awareness of the public at large about trafficking issues and to promote the toll-free number 0800 800 678 to call for:

- information which could help reduce vulnerability to trafficking when traveling abroad for labour and avoid certain indefinite situations which might lead to trafficking;
- request for assistance from families, relatives or immediate family in case they assume that either a family member or an acquaintance is in a risk situation of being/ or has been trafficked;
- information on victims' rights as provided by the law and the assistance services available.

The targeted group of the campaign was represented by young people aged between 15 and 25 potentially vulnerable victims of trafficking who hesitate to ask for specialist assistance in case they are victims. This choice was justified by the fact that out of the total number of victims of trafficking identified in 2006, the largest segment was represented by people of 18 to 25 years of age.

The campaign was financed by the Agency. The total cost amounted to approximately 80,000 Euros for advertisements on radio and television and in three daily newspapers of large circulation, promotional materials. The television advertisement project was partially sponsored by the American Cultural Centre of the US Embassy to Bucharest with \$5,000.

Throughout December 2006 and January 2007 the spot was broadcast on Realitatea TV station and subsequently by other regional TV stations and, with the assistance of TAROM Airline Company, on domestic and international flights.

The radio spot was broadcast on Romania News radio station and its regional networks in Iasi, Tg. Mures, Constanta, Cluj, Timisoara, Craiova and Bucharest (3 per day).

According to Print Media Rating Office the message of the campaign was published in 3 daily newspapers of large circulation⁴³:

- ✓ Jurnalul National (3 publications x 82,815 issues per publication with a total number of 2,796,00 readers);
- ✓ Libertatea (4 publications x 255,938 issues per publication with 5,552,000 readers);
- ✓ Evenimentul Zilei (7 publications x 66,957 issues per publication with 5,222,000 readers).

The promotional products of the campaign included: 70,000 leaflets in Romanian and 5,000 in Roma language; 35,000 flyers, 10,000 stickers, 1,000 key holders, 2,200 pens, 12 banners, 1,000 pins, 500 mouse pads, 250 backpacks, 3,000 car fresheners and 5,000 coasters all carrying the slogan of the campaign and the help-line number 0 800 800 678.

⁴³ According to SNA FOCUS_APR06-APR07, 17-22 April 2007, Romanian Print Media Rating Office.

The National Agency for Roma contributed by translating the campaign leaflets into the Roma language and distributing them among the Roma communities

Throughout 19 December 2006 and 19 January 2007 the Bucharest division of the Electric Power Distribution Service assisted the campaign in displaying 12 billboards in major public places in Bucharest – University Square, Romana Square, Calea Victoriei.

Other activities, such as:

- broadcasting the spots on national and local TV stations and on national and international flights
- distribution of the campaign promotional materials in schools and on public transportation means in Bucharest;
- posters of the campaign placed in major underground stations and other public areas;
- organizing school competitions on trafficking related issues;
- cup coasters distributed to discos and clubs;
- car fresheners distributed to taxi companies were carried out until June 2007 with the assistance of Bucharest Municipal Prefecture, METROREX, TAROM Air Company and local partners.

Part of the campaign materials were distributed by volunteers trained by AIDRom, Caritas Bucharest and ADPARE organizations with the “Be Yourself!” and “SENS” projects and campaigns under way.

Upon the request of ANITP, Bulgaria and Hungary offered their support by distributing 8,000 flyers in border crossing points with information for Romanian citizens traveling abroad.

A study was developed in order to assess the impact of the campaign. The study included the questioning of a group of young people, before and after the relevant activities in the campaign had been carried out.

The assessment aimed to:

- ✗ measure the variation of the level of information on trafficking issues within the targeted group;
- ✗ measure the degree of awareness about trafficking in persons associated risks within the targeted group.

The campaign impact assessment considered the following stages:

- ✗ during stage I a questionnaire was developed and distributed to ANITP Regional Centers⁴⁴ in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta, Craiova, Iasi, Pitesti and Timisoara
- ✗ in stage II there were selected groups of pupils and students to participate in the process; questionnaires were conducted before the launch⁴⁵ and after the end⁴⁶ of the campaign; the selected groups comprised:
 - 9th grade high school pupils and 1st year college students – RC Cluj, RC Galati;
 - 10th grade high school pupils and sophomore college students - RC Craiova, RC Iasi;
 - 11th grade high school pupils and junior college students - RC Pitesti, RC Timisoara;

⁴⁴ Referred to as RC

⁴⁵ Referred as pre-test

⁴⁶ Referred as post-test

– 12th grade high school pupils and senior college students - RC Bucharest,
R C Constanta;

- ✘ in stage III the information obtained through the questionnaires conducted within the targeted group was analyzed;
- ✘ in stage IV the data obtained were interpreted and the results of the two stages were compared in order to measure the impact of the campaign.

The campaign assessment process showed the following:

- a 1.45% increase in the number of persons who had known about trafficking;
- a drop by 6.92% in the number of persons who couldn't differentiate trafficking in persons from prostitution;
- an increased level of information, evaluated through a changed perception on victimization by trafficking;
- an increased awareness on the trafficking in persons related risks; social marginalization recorded a significant rise of about 19%;
- an increase of the campaign high-visibility compared with previous activities; while the pre-test showed that 40% of those interviewed had known about prevention campaigns, in the post-test the rate reached 92%;
- a more efficient targeting of future campaigns, in terms of focusing on trafficking in persons associated risks as revealed by the findings of the post-test evaluation (an increase by 4.52% in the affirmative responses from 78.69% to 83.21%).

As a result, it has been concluded that prevention campaigns lead to higher level of information among the population about trafficking in persons and its associated risks. The following actions shall be taken in order to increase the prevention campaign impact:

- ✘ to conduct prevention campaigns at regional and community levels, within unprivileged and high risk areas;
- ✘ to increase the number of preventive activities conducted within the educational environment;
- ✘ to consult with a sample of participants in the targeted group in developing the campaign message and information materials.

B. “Watch out for PERFECT opportunities for PERFECT jobs!” campaign was conducted throughout July 2007 and February 2008.

The campaign aimed to:

- Inform and raise awareness of the public on the risks associated to trafficking in persons;
- Strengthen the self protection capacity against the threats of the trafficking phenomenon;
- Reduce the vulnerability of groups at risk of being trafficked (particularly unaccompanied, unattended or institutionalized children, as well as women, persons with disabilities, old people, asylum seekers and persons to have benefited from any form of protection in Romania);
- Reduce the demand for sexual exploitation of women;
- Reduce the demand of labour exploitation.

The message of the campaign targeted the young people aged 16 to 25 who might be at risk of falling victims to trafficking and who believe that jobs in foreign countries are perfect as described by successful experiences in the West, as well as adults of 25 to 45 years of age in search of well paid jobs, particularly, abroad.

The idea which prompted the development of this campaign was due to the cases of victims exploited for labour in the Czech Republic. The budget of the campaign amounted to 30,000 Euros.

It's been the first campaign to address both the public and the law enforcement agencies; NGOs such as AIDRom, Caritas and ADPARE also participated in the campaign.

There were developed two brochures: "Preventive measures for trafficking in persons" for the general public and "Victims' rights" for state institutions coming into contact with victims of trafficking.

There were developed two types of brochures: "Actions to Prevent Trafficking in Persons" aimed at the general public and "Victims' Rights" for the state institutions coming into contact with victims of trafficking.

The TV spot was the result of joint efforts of MIRA structures, ANITP and the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, with the participation of the "New Theatre Company". The spot was broadcast by major national and local TV stations (B1TV, TVR1, Prima TV, Realitatea TV, Antena2 and MTV).

Electric Power Distribution Service and the Inspectorate General for Emergency Situations (IGES) assisted the campaign in displaying 18 banners in major



Lanch of the "Watch out for PERFECT opportunities for PERFECT jobs!" campaign



ANITP Partners – „The New Theatre Company” actors

public places in Bucharest and a mesh on the IGPR building for the entire period of the campaign.

The campaign materials were distributed on public transportation means in Bucharest with the support of Bucharest Municipal Prefecture.

At the same time, courtesy of the METROREX, posters were placed in 10 major underground stations. Part of the campaign materials (posters, leaflets, car fresheners) were distributed by S.C.ATLASSIB S.R.L. to all users of international transport (200 coaches) and domestic and international mail services (99 offices). The “Victims’ Rights” brochures were disseminated to MIRA and MFA structures.

An assessment survey of the campaign has not been conducted, but the Help-line calls received show an increase in the level of public awareness about the risk entailed by job offers recommended through intermediaries.



18 October, EU Anti-trafficking Day

C. The “18 October – EU Anti-Trafficking Day” campaign.

Taking into account that the European Anti-Trafficking Day was for the first time celebrated on 18 of October, ANITP conducted various information and preventive activities both in Bucharest and across the territory through the Regional Centers. Dissemination of information materials and street and school activities with large media coverage can be mentioned.

The press conference organized at the MIRA headquarters presented the “The Half-yearly Report on Trafficking”.

The “Human Trafficking” film, the cruel image of the real world of trafficking, was shown in the “Nichita Stanescu” hall, courtesy of the American Embassy.

The campaign was launched at the headquarters of the Prefect Institution in Iasi. Partner NGOs, such as AIDRom, Caritas and ADPARE joined the ANITP in the campaign. This ample activity was attended by representatives of World Vision, Social Alternatives, Caritas Iasi, County Agency for Employment Iasi, mass media, the School Inspectorate and the Prefect Institution.

The “Trafficking in Human Beings - a Social Phenomenon – Collective Responsibility” round table was also organized.

D. “Promises don’t count, but You!” campaign

Between January and March 2007 United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration conducted the **Information Campaign on Prevention of Human Trafficking in UK** “Promises don’t count, but You”, with the



The campaign “Promises don’t count, but You!”

financial support of the Home Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The project aimed to create a web site and develop and disseminate information materials (5,000 posters and 35,000 flyers) promoting the ANITP Help-line. The project also included two training sessions for Help-line specialist operators, a workshop attended by journalists and adequate operational equipment for the Help-line Unit.

Within the campaign, the Regional Centers conducted **107** activities of material distribution and developed **6,000** leaflets containing frequently asked questions and answers in relation to legal jobs in Great Britain with a view to prevent trafficking for forced labour. **8,130** persons benefited (directly and indirectly) from these activities.

E. Regional Centers - preventive activities

At national level the ANITP Regional Centers developed and conducted **1257** activities during the “**Be careful! There’s a price to pay!**” campaign. The activities included dissemination of informative materials to agencies involved in preventing trafficking in persons (DGASPC, CEA, Police Inspectorates –Prevention Units, School Inspectorates, NGOs), rural police and gendarmes units, taxi companies, clubs and waiting areas in railway-stations, airports, transit centers, street distribution of information materials, educational activities and competitions in schools and colleges, debates and seminars with relevant specialists, radio and television broadcasts, banners and pre and post tests questionnaires. A total of **162,812** campaign materials were distributed. The estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries amounted to **449,500**.

The second national campaign “**Watch out for PERFECT opportunities for PERFECT jobs!**“ was launched on 12 July 2007 in Bucharest and its summer edition started on Radio Vacation station in Mamaia on 7 August 2007. During the campaign **420 activities** have been conducted so far and included dissemination of informative materials to agencies involved in preventing trafficking in persons (DGASPC, CEA, Police Inspectorates –Prevention Units, School Inspectorates, NGOs), rural police and gendarmes units, taxi companies, clubs and waiting areas in railway-stations, airports, transit centers, street distribution of information materials, educational activities and competitions in schools and colleges, debates and seminars with relevant specialists, and television broadcasts of the campaign spot, banners . **38,366** materials were distributed for an estimated number of **769,920** beneficiaries.

The Centers’ personnel organized **202** media activities to promote the campaign messages and the role of the Agency and its Regional Centers in combating trafficking in persons: press releases, articles in the print media, interviews and transmissions on radio and television.

4.1.2. Local campaigns

The campaign “**Human Trafficking Is Inhuman**” was launched in Timisoara by the Children and Parents Society –SCOP in partnership with the ANITP Regional Centre, the Border Police Directorate, the Organized Crime Squad and the County School Inspectorate.

The 5 activities performed in partnership with the RC in Timisoara consisted in:

- informing the public at large about trafficking in persons associated risks by disseminating information materials, showing films and organizing thematic games and competitions;
- training volunteers as resource persons;
- involving children and students in drawing or photo competitions in relation to trafficking issues in order to make them understand the phenomenon and eliminate attitudes to underestimate it.



Distribution of promotional and public information materials

Approximately 2,350 persons took part in the campaign activities. Information materials (leaflets, posters, T-shirts, pens) developed locally were disseminated.

A) in the counties of Timis and Arad:

Partners: ANITP Regional Center, Border Police County Inspectorate, Organized Crime Squad, local School Inspectorates, DGASPC Arad

Financing: Co-operating Netherlands Foundation for Central and Eastern Europe

Period: October 2006 - 2008

Targeted Group:

- 2,000 high school students;
- 50 teen-agers who will be trained how to train others by peer education methods;
- 50 teen-agers from 10 Romanian cities to participate in an anti-trafficking camp;
- 30 community specialists as trainers for youngsters

Activities:

- to establish a community network;
- to organize a training course for specialists dealing with trafficking in persons;
- to develop information campaigns in local high schools;
- to show films;
- to organize a training session for volunteers;
- to organize meetings with the communities in the counties of Timis and Arad;
- to organize drawing, painting and photo competitions;
- to organize an anti-trafficking camp.



Information campaign in schools

b) in the Timis county, the project aimed:

- to inform children about the trafficking in persons phenomenon;
- to train school counselors;
- to increase the participation of the public in preventive activities.

Partners: ANITP Regional Center, Border Police County Inspectorate, Organized Crime Squad

Financing: GENEVA GLOBAL

Period: March – December 2007

Targeted Group: 4,250 children and teen-agers

Activities:

- training course for 40 school counselors;
- drawing, painting and photo competitions;
- developing campaigns – inter-school competitions
- activities designed to raise awareness about trafficking in a public area.

The “**Stop Trafficking in Children**” campaign was initiated by the Save the Children organization – Timis section and its local partners: ANITP Regional Center, Border Police County Inspectorate, Organized Crime Squad, the School Inspectorate and DGASPC.

ANITP Regional Center was involved in 11 activities based on the “Journey Diary” and conducted in schools from Timisoara and rural areas. The activities were attended by 1,500 children.

The **Save the Children** organization – Timis section is conducting the project “**Regional Child Trafficking Response Program**” within the counties of Timis, Hunedoara and Dolj.

The project objectives:

- To reduce the vulnerability of children at risk of being trafficked through preventive activities;
- To increase the number of identified trafficked children and refer them to the protection system for immediate protection services;
- To increase the number of trafficked children who were successfully reintegrated.

Partners: ANITP Regional Center, Border Police County Inspectorate, Organized Crime Squad, local School Inspectorate, DGASPC, Gendarme County Inspectorate

Financing: the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and OAK AIDS Foundation

Period: February 2006 - April 2008

Targeted Group: children and teenagers in the counties of Timis, Hunedoara and Dolj

Activities:

- Research on vulnerability to trafficking;
- Workshops in schools and training for the community leaders;
- Public information events about trafficking risks;
- Development and distribution of information materials.

“**The 16 day campaign to fight violence against women**” in Cluj-Napoca was organized in partnership by the Romanian Institute for Peace Training and Research (RIPTR), ARTEMIS- Women Association against Violence, ANITP – Cluj-Napoca Regional Center, Cluj County Police Inspectorate, Agency for Equal Opportunities.

The campaign, already a tradition within the Cluj community, was carried out between 25 November and 10 December and included a series of activities aimed at raising the awareness of the population about violence against women in all its forms.

In 2007 the issue of trafficking in women was for the first time approached during the campaign.

The campaign activities carried out under the slogan **“Promote human rights, stop violence against women!”**, were as follows:

- ✓ The exhibition ‘The Silent Witnesses’ and the art exhibition regarding ‘Stop the violence against women!’ aspect;
- ✓ Training on human rights and violence against women, seminars on violence in schools;
- ✓ Film nights: ‘Monologues of a vagina’ and ‘Human Trafficking’;
- ✓ Essay and drawing competitions for children about violence in schools: ‘A world without violence’;
- ✓ Seminar with the psycho-educators about ‘Children can be victims of violence. How can we identify abuse and support victims?’;
- ✓ Debates on domestic violence and legalization of prostitution?
- ✓ ‘On Wake’ – a night to commemorate victims of trafficking by setting lighted candles going on the lake in the Central Park of Cluj;
- ✓ Radio and TV broadcasts;
- ✓ Dissemination of posters and leaflets about domestic violence and trafficking in persons.

The number of the campaign beneficiaries amounted to 700.

A great number of young volunteers assisted in the campaign and their contribution was highly appreciated.

“Choose for your own good” prevention program

During 2007 the project ‘Choose for your own good’ conducted by Ratiu Center for Democracy, Turda, continued the preventive activities in the educational institutions from Turda and Campia Turzii.

The objective of the project is to prevent trafficking in persons and sexual commercial exploitation among young people aged 13 to 19. For the first time in Turda the project has initiated public debates about trafficking and collaborations between public institutions with responsibilities in the field and civil society organizations. Throughout the two years since its inception, there have been initiated various campaigns to inform and educate young people and events aimed at reuniting and strengthening the cooperative relationship between people and organizations working in the field.

A team of volunteers was made up to fight for a just cause under the slogan ‘Choose for your own good’.

The project developed the interactive play ‘Broken Dreams’ based on a script by Eugene Wahl. The four characters in the play are performed by high school students. The play presents the story of a young girl who, in a moment of weakness, is persuaded by a former colleague to leave abroad where she is sold to a trafficker. The story follows the changes undergone by the character, from a good and naïve girl to the victim forced to prostitution who, eventually, becomes a ruthless trafficker. Though, in most cases, the audience is shocked by the hard plot, the play gave rise to open dialogues with the student spectators who were asked, during the performance, how they saw the phenomenon, what they would do in her place, what they thought about the risks of going away in pursuit of a better life, etc.

Students of 7 to 8 and 9 to 12 grades from Turda and Campia Turzii, as well as students from the neighboring localities were the beneficiaries of the project.

“Adolescent actors in the fight against trafficking” project is conducted by the AFI PRO FAMILIA in Bistrita Nasaud. The main objective of the project is strengthening the local capacity to prevent and protect potential victims of trafficking, make the adolescents

and the population in general know and understand the trafficking phenomenon and its risks, as well as to provide the young people going abroad for work with a protection mechanism while in the country of origin.

The information and educational activities within the project are carried out in close cooperation with the high schools in Bistrita Nasaud County and will be continued till the end of August 2008. Initially the project covered an area of 16 high schools but upon further requests from the County Inspectorate of Education it will be expanded to 26 high schools.

The campaigns are monitored by Cluj-Napoca Regional Center as partner in the project.

The anti-trafficking volunteers – young people fighting against modern slavery” project was conducted between October and December 2007 with the financial support of the National Authority for the Young – Braila County Directorate. 15 high school pupils were trained as anti-trafficking volunteers with the view to promote useful information among the youngsters’ community and support vulnerable categories and victims of trafficking.

The project aimed to inform the young people in the county of Braila about the trafficking phenomenon and better prepare them to hold up against the traffickers’ tempting but dangerous offers.

In the field of prevention, the **“Younger Generation Association”** concluded partnership agreements with school inspectorates, border police and DGCCO. Border police and organized crime officers accompany the Association personnel for the prevention sessions organized with pupils, parents and teaching staff, as well as social workers with the local authorities in whose areas of responsibility a large number of victims has been identified. The **“Younger Generation Association”** delivered 4 training sessions in the Timis county and 1 session in the Mehedinti county, attended by 560 pupils, 120 parents and 34 teaching staff.

4.2. Specialist training in the field of prevention of trafficking in persons

Having as objective to constantly inform the local communities with the view to better understand the trafficking phenomenon, to eliminate attitudes underestimating it and improve the early identification capacity, specialists of the Regional Centers within ANITP developed and delivered 53 training sessions for professionals who come into contact with victims/potential victims in order to sensitize and raise their awareness about the consequences and features of the trafficking phenomenon. At the same time, the action aimed to promote an informal type of identification, distinct from the one carried out by the investigative authorities which shall enable the victim his/her immediate access to specialized assistance services.

The range of topics for discussions during the training sessions included: responsibilities of partner institutions to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, assistance for victims’ reintegration or assistance in identifying potential victims; the National Action Plan 2006-2007 for the implementation of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010 and indicators contained in the plan; victim

identification methods from the victim perspective; victim's traumata logy elements; actual cases.

As a result, 16 community police officers, 392 medical staff, 11 lawyers, 143 educational counselors and school psychologists, 210 teaching staff, 311 proximity officers, 3 labour inspectors, 2 prefect's office counselors, 24 gendarmes and 183 social workers received training at national level.

A distinct training program was developed for the rural police including **1068 localities**; **1993 rural police** officers were trained.

4.3. Help-line

Starting 1 August 2007, the **Help-line toll free number 0800 800 678** is operational 24 hours a day. The unit carries out its activity according to the methodology approved by ANITP President Disposition 144/26.07.2007⁴⁷.

The structure of the unit established by organizational chart comprises a supervisor and specialists.

The Help-line was set up and organized within the Agency and is operating in interaction with the other units and services.

The activities carried out aim to:

- Receive, record, verify and refer each request, thus ensuring entry into the assistance system and referral of the case to other related systems (prosecutorial, health care, judicial, social assistance) when the reported situation is confirmed but the case is the responsibility of another system;
- Offer counseling to callers in crisis situations, trafficking victims or their families;
- Inform victims who want to decide about going abroad for work in order to



Help-Line Unit – free call line available 24/24

avoid risks.

The role of the unit is also to provide the public with preventive information.

⁴⁷ The Help-Line 0800.800.678 unit became operational in 2006 but it was available only between 8 a.m and 10 p.m. Starting August 2007, ANITP specialist personnel provides a 24 hour service.

Since its inception, the unit has responded to various requests, such as:

- Receiving reports of potential cases of trafficking;
- Information regarding trafficking victims under recovery and reintegration;
- Information relating to legal employment contracts abroad, traveling abroad, legal firms to mediate employment contracts abroad;
- Information about contact addresses and telephone numbers of both foreign diplomatic missions in Romania and Romanian missions in other countries;
- Receiving reports on missing cases and their referral to competent police structures;
- Receiving and accepting exploitation cases, etc.

The decisions taken by the executive management of the Agency in respect of the safety of the beneficiary of the request and the actions to be developed are based on the information received and processed by the Help-line specialists.

According to the case, callers are provided support and the explanation that the competent structures are to initiate actions for their benefit. Reporting information is encouraged and the process by which the request is verified and turned into an active case is explained.

The unit enables a unitary and responsible handling of the requests by ensuring less than 24 hours response time to receive, record, and verify each request and then refer it to services within or outside the Agency.

The procedure to call the 0800 800 678 number from the mobile phone networks is about to be finalized; this will allow a larger number of beneficiaries to call and ask for information.

During the period under review, there were recorded 627 calls with 217 of them re-directed as follows:

- 149 calls requesting information on traveling abroad, verification of the legality of employment agencies and their offers, request for assistance from families, relatives or persons close to victims of trafficking, contacts of organizations to provide support and anti-trafficking information, migrants organizations, diplomatic missions, charity organizations in Romania and abroad, information about traveling abroad accompanied by minors, information about the ANITP campaigns, information about travel documents in EU or other countries, such as Bulgaria, Turkey, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Greece and Dubai with a high number of reported victims, etc;
- 46 calls reporting possible situations of trafficking;
- 13 calls notifying missing persons;
- 9 calls in relation to exploitation situations.

Upon the caller's consent and in basis of a written report the information revealing possible situations of trafficking were referred to the competent territorial structures combating organized crime to take specific actions for the disposition of the case.

Such 38 reports were recorded and according to the Help-line methodology, communications were sent to the Directorate General for Countering Organized Crime (DGCCO), International Police Cooperation Center, and County Police Inspectorates in Vrancea, Cluj-Napoca, Braila and Brasov to verify and process the information received.

Following the communications, **38 investigations** were initiated of which 17 taken over by DGCCO and are in process now, 2 resulted in criminal actions, 8 not confirmed as cases of trafficking; for the rest of the cases the information could not be verified.

Following the participation of an ANITP representative in the study visit on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons in Great Britain, organized by UKHTC and the REFLEX Project Romania, between 26-30 March 2007, there were established working contacts with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) in GB and Northern Ireland which provided ANITP with information on standards of licensing and the rights of workers in Great Britain in order to be used by the Help-line unit. The information is also available on the ANITP site http://anitp.mira.gov.ro/ro/?zone=informatii_utile.

The same information was communicated to the Labour Migration Office within the Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities.

During the visit, at the request of the Romanian delegation, it was agreed that jobs offers in Great Britain recommended by various agencies and reported to ANITP by calls to Help-line or by any other way, should be verified by GLA in order to avoid tricky offers and Romanian nationals could take appropriate decisions.

In addition, the ANITP site contains a booklet in Romanian with useful information on living and work conditions in the Czech Republic. The material was made available by the Czech Ministry of Labour, following the visit to the Czech Republic of 3 ANITP representatives during 9 – 13 June 2008. The information is also available by calling the Agency Help-line.

Chapter 5 COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

5.1. Evolution of the phenomenon

According to Europol, in many EU Member States, the criminal groups and networks involved in trafficking in persons related offences meet most of the EU criterion in terms of organized crime groups.⁴⁸

The criminal phenomenon is not static; it evolves not only as magnitude but also in relation to the methods of operation of the organized crime groups/networks; in many cases the criminal groups direct their activity according to the profit that could be made, taking advantage of the individuals' socio-economic difficulties and their hope for a better life, risk factors that, as long as they exist, traffickers will permanently exploit.

The operational analysis of organized crime officers shows that there are criminal groups operating locally, within a certain area only, and groups whose activity is exclusively conducted at international level.

There are cases where the groups initially operated within the national borders (for example, street prostitution), and subsequently expanding their field of activity to exploitation of victims in private premises (apartments); when the profit made outside the borders became higher, the criminal groups directed their operations abroad only. This method is sometimes used by traffickers in "training" victims (particularly underage girls) for the purpose of sexual exploitation outside Romania as well.

The following operations conducted and solved by the investigative bodies are an illustration of the activity of criminal groups; they confirm the peculiarities of the criminal phenomenon both in methods of operation of criminal groups involved in trafficking and the difficulties arising in investigation and prosecution of related offences.

The officers from the Organized Crime Squad in Pitesti investigated the "Oancea" clan, well known in the criminal community, operating between 2003 and 2007 in Pitesti, Spain and Italy. The traffickers, belonging to the same family, operated together for the sexual exploitation of several young girls. The main recruitment method was kidnapping or buying girls from other pimps. At first, the girls were kept in an apartment in Pitesti; after a period of internal exploitation, some of the girls were taken to Spain and Italy. As a result of extensive police inquiries and the indictment in the case, 17 defendants appeared before the court, with 7 of them in custody awaiting trial. By order of the prosecutor 6 apartments and lands in the municipality of Pitesti, 2 villas in communes across the county, gold and money, of a total value of 1,350,000 Euros, were seized.⁴⁹

The practice of organized crime officers shows the presence of hierarchy groups, too, with a pyramidal structure whose members have specific roles: the recruiters involved in the recruitment of persons; they have the same nationality or ethnicity as the victims and are located in the same country of origin with the victims; those responsible for smuggling and transport of the victims to the destination countries; those who watch the victims; and other people involved in the exploitation of victims and collection of money; club and bar owners where victims are exploited, brothel owners and pimps. They do not always

⁴⁸ "Trafficking in human beings in the European Union: A Europol Perspective", February 2008.

⁴⁹ Source; DGCCO, IGPR

belong to the actual group, but are contacted by the network members to place and exploit the victims only.

If at first the groups are well structured, because of the profit, this structure can be expanded and some of its members who were initially involved in recruiting victims can also deal with the exploitation component by subjecting to exploitation their own girls and in exchange some of the profit is returned to the network leaders.

Police officers with the DGCCO detected a group of persons operating in Romania consisting of Romanian and Dutch nationals who were recruiting young and minor girls from different counties across the country; by promising them jobs in Holland, they were transported to Amsterdam for sexual exploitation through escort agencies; the girls were subjected to various forms of violence and their gains were collected by members of the network.

Part of the network members were based in Holland, so that, following the complaints to the police by some of the victims, the Dutch authorities started an investigation; the network members were prosecuted and convicted by the Dutch court to imprisonment for aiding a criminal group, trafficking in persons and other violent crimes. The group leader received a 12 year jail term and 5 other members were convicted to imprisonment for up to 5 years.

In Romania, 16 persons were brought before the court for trafficking in persons related offences as provided by article 12 of Law 678/2001, trafficking in minors offences according to article 13 of Law 678/2001 and aiding & abetting as provided by article 323 of the Criminal Code.

There are cases, too, when the persons under investigation are not hold in police custody and they continue their criminal activity in the same field.

In this way, in 2007, as a result of an investigation that lasted approximately 3 months, police officers from Organized Crime Squad in Oradea, in conjunction with the territorial DIICOT unit, finalized their inquiries in relation with an organized crime group specialized in trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Throughout 2004 and 2007, the criminal group, consisting of 8 members, had recruited, transported, hosted and exploited in Italy 13 young girls coming from the north-western part of Romania; 9 of the girls were minors, aged between 15 and 17.

The group had been formed in 2003 by the network leader, a Romanian citizen, and 2 other members; they had internally recruited and exploited 5 minor victims. In 2005 the group was dismantled by the Oradea Organized Crime Squad and the leader and another member were arrested. In January 2006, by Court order, the leader's custodial sentence was suspended on condition that he should not leave the country. After his release, the leader resumed his crimes by recruiting particularly minors with financial or family problems and compelled them to practice prostitution. In order not to be detected by the police, the leader changed his modus operandi and got in contact with an Italian citizen who formed a new criminal group and in this way the activity was expanded on the Italian territory, too. This time he also assumed the role of placing the young girls to various regions in Italy, even his own wife aged 17. An Italian and a Romanian were the network leaders and they were occasionally working with an Albanian trafficker through his concubine of Romanian nationality.

In May 2006 the trafficker was arrested again and sent to Court; he is currently in jail.

Three international rogatory commissions were requested in order to investigate the criminal activity of the group; following their work 4 new victims were identified and the Italian and 2 other group members were arrested.

Some of the victims were referred to assistance services and they accepted the assistance program of a Romanian NGO; 5 other victims were identified by the Romanian judicial authorities and were heard under protected identity.

The territorial DIICOT unit, by its indictment of 2007, decided that 8 defendants were to appear in Court under charges of institution of a criminal group, trafficking in persons and trafficking in minors related offences; 5 of them are detained in custody. In addition, 26,400 Euros was confiscated as proceeds of sexual exploitation of the victims.⁵⁰

5.2. Characteristics of trafficking for labour

Even if 2007 recorded a significant increase in relation to trafficking for labour, the phenomenon is not new as also indicated by the data resulted from the border police.

In the recent years, particularly in 2005, there has been recorded an intensification of this illegal activity on the route Romania – EU member countries, which became the focus of attention of the MIRA.

After Romania's accession to EU there have been recorded numerous reports about trafficking related issues, particularly about labour exploitation of Romanian nationals in the Czech Republic. Victims generally came from rural areas (59,25%) recruited through local newspaper ads and acquaintances.

Such an example is the network led by a certain "Iura" operating in the county of Maramures, which, through ads published in a local newspaper of large circulation, offered jobs in the Czech Republic in the forestry, beekeeping and construction fields for 700 Euros a month. Each time the recruiters asked the concerned persons to come to the bus and train stations in the municipalities of Baia Mare and Oradea where other persons, also members of the network, boarded them on mini-buses and transported them to various locations in the Czech Republic, frequently to small factories near the Prague. More often than that, after the border control, the bus drivers didn't return the identity documents of their passengers, claiming that the documents would be sent to the Czech employers to arrange for their labour papers. On arrival at the destination, the Romanians were sold to Ukrainian criminal groups or directly to some Czech citizens interested in cheap labour force, which came into the possession of the Romanians' travel documents. The victims were compelled to work for their exploiters for little money and food provided daily. Due to the treatment they were subjected to, many victims decided to escape from the working premises; some of them were successful and, without any documents on them, requested the assistance of the Romanian Embassy in Prague that offered them the necessary support to return to the country.⁵¹

Based on the operational data and information supplied by the Romanian Border Police, respectively the Anti-Trafficking Unit within IGPB and Maramures County Inspectorate of Border Police, an investigation on the criminal activity of a trafficking network operating on the route Romania – the Czech Republic, started in 2005.

Throughout 2001 and 2007 the group members recruited, transported and exploited in the Czech Republic approximately 900 Romanians coming from the counties of Maramures, Satu-Mare, Botosani, Arges, Bacau, Vaslui, Galati, Hunedoara, Mures and

⁵⁰ Source: Organized Crime Squad - Oradea

⁵¹ Source: IGPB - Anti-Trafficking Unit

Sibiu, through false promises of legal employment and tempting salaries. Victims were promised a decent salary under a legal work contract. Similarly to the case mentioned above, the concerned persons, upon arrival in the Czech Republic, were sold to Ukrainian citizens and forced to perform hard work under inhuman conditions and very little money which could provide them only the essentials of life. In most cases, upon arrival at the destination, the criminal group members kept the travel and identity documents of the recruited persons, restricting in this way their freedom of movement. When the Romanian workers wanted to go back to their country realizing that they had been cheated and exploited, they couldn't do it because their documents had been held and the employers hadn't paid them for their work.

So far, 147 persons have been identified and heard resulting in the prosecution and evidence gathering for illegal acts of 7 members of the transnational group. On 29.03.2007 anti-trafficking officers apprehended 3 of the members who were remanded into custody for 24 hours on charges of institution of a criminal group and trafficking in persons related offences as provided by article 7 of Law 39/2001 and article 12 of Law 678/2001.⁵²

For those involved in committing this offence, trafficking in persons, no matter how inhuman and degrading, represents an illicit profit oriented business. The increase in the number of persons, females as well as males, searching for a job abroad resulted in the adjustment of the techniques used by the criminal groups to the market demands. The most frequent fields of exploitation of victims are the agricultural, construction and industrial sectors, as well as hotel, restaurant and domestic services.

The above mentioned cases are not singular; the statistics show that Spain and Greece are two other main countries of destination for labour exploitation with most of the victims working in agriculture.

Information supplied by DGCCO officers show that in most cases the criminal cell is made up of 4 to 5 or 6 members who recruited their victims from within the very poor rural community, persons with a minimum degree of education.

For recruitment, the traffickers used an "acquaintance" to mediate between the victim and the network members; the mediator was a person who enjoyed some popularity within the community. The intentions of the network members can be made known to this person, or, on the contrary he/she may become himself/herself a victim of the exploitation. The network members used to accompany the group to the country of destination where the victims could be transferred to other members dealing with the "distribution" of the workers in the group.

The transport costs could be paid by the traffickers and the expenses were then charged with the victims. This debt was supplemented by expenses for maintenance, food and water, even if the victims lived in barracks without access to drinkable running water.

In most cases, the victims' identity documents are held back and the traffickers resort to various forms of intimidation and threat in order to discourage any possible attempts of the victims to escape. There are also testimonies of the victims saying that they were permanently watched and the traffickers had several edged weapons (swords) at their disposal.

Generally, the offer was not based on any contract or written agreement between the parties, even if the employers were foreigners or the victims, Romanian nationals, were taken to Spain or Greece. Employers pay their members directly and are not concerned about what happens to the labour force that is available to them.

⁵² Source: IGPB – Anti-Trafficking Unit

After 3 to 4 or 5 months, the victims succeeded in escaping and if they applied to the Romanian consular offices (as in the case of the Romanian consular office in Seville) they could be repatriated. There were also some situations where the victims did not apply to the authorities and they were found and threatened by the traffickers.

5.3. Victim's participation in trial

Victim's level of participation in investigations and criminal proceedings represents another major issue.

Any person to have suffered physical, moral or financial damage induced by the criminal act (trafficking in persons offence) may turn **injured party** in trial or institute **civil action**. At the same time, the victim can be heard as witness in the trial, in case he/she has not brought civil action or is not an injured party in trial.

Out of the **1,779** victims identified in 2007, **1,405** turned injured parties, **270** were heard in their capacity as witnesses in trial and **98** did not get involved⁵³.

As shown in fig.36, the relevance of the victim's assumed status in trial is directly related to his/her trafficking and exploitation history associated victimization. Thus:

- ✘ 31.3% of the victims assuming the status of injured parties in trial suffered severe *emotional abuses* (440), as consequences of their trafficking and exploitation history; 22.1% of these (311) fell victims to debt bondage or financial penalties system imposed by the traffickers, while 12.7% (179) sustained serious physical abuses and 13.3% (187) were regularly deprived of water or food or denied access to hygiene and/or recovery facilities;
- ✘ 8.6% of the victims considered as injured parties in trial had their documents withheld or destroyed by traffickers (122) and 7.1% of them (101) were sexually abused;
- ✘ Of the 270 victims who chose to testify against their traffickers 99 (36.6%) suffered severe emotional abuses, (18.5%) were (also) victims of physical abuses, 23 (8.5%) were sexually abused, 56 (20.7%) were (also) victims of debt bondage or financial penalties system imposed by the traffickers, other 10 victims (3.7%) were constantly deprived of water or food or denied their access to hygiene and/or recovery facilities; 17 persons (6.2%) had their documents withheld or destroyed by traffickers and other 9 (3.3%) were deprived of liberty.

⁵³ The status in trial for 6 victims has not been determined yet.

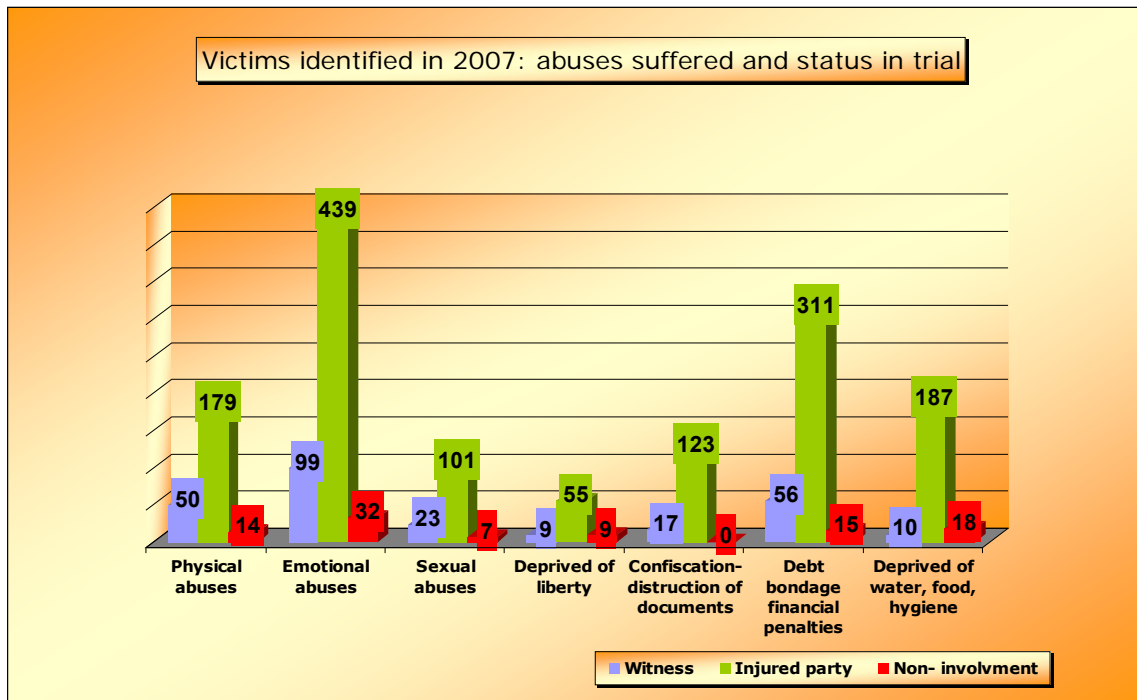


Fig. 43. Victims identified in 2007: abuses suffered and status in trial

5.4. Practice of the courts

The international reports in the field appreciate Romania's uninterrupted actions conducted by the judicial authorities in investigating trafficking in persons offences.

Law 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons incriminates two types of offences: trafficking in persons and trafficking in minors. In Romania, trafficking in persons offences are punishable by imprisonment for 3 to 12 years, respectively 5 to 15 years for aggravating forms. For trafficking in minors related offences, the law prescribes penalties from 5 to 15 years in case the minor is less than 15 years of age. In case the offence has resulted in the victim's death or suicide, the punishment shall be 18 to 25 years imprisonment.

Specialized police structures within DGCCO and IGPB state that out of the total of **1,510** persons under investigation:

- **284** have prior convictions (19%), **72%** males (1085) , **18%** females (273) and **10%** minors.
- **36** are **female minors** (2% of the total number of investigated persons and 24% of the total number of minors investigated for trafficking related offences in 2007);
- **27** are foreign citizens of Greek, German, Albanian, Italian, English, Spanish and Hungarian nationality.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Source; DGCCO and IGPB

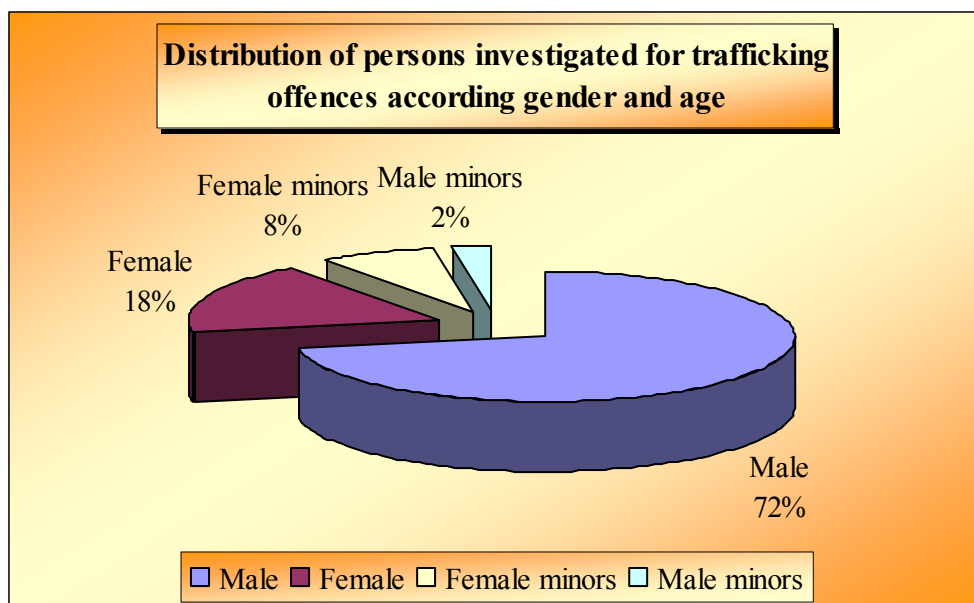


Fig.44 Reporting of persons investigated for trafficking offences, according to information supplied by DGCCO and IGPB

The figures were constant for 2005 and 2006; the majority of persons under investigation for having committed trafficking offences were males (approx. 70%), but females and minors were also involved.

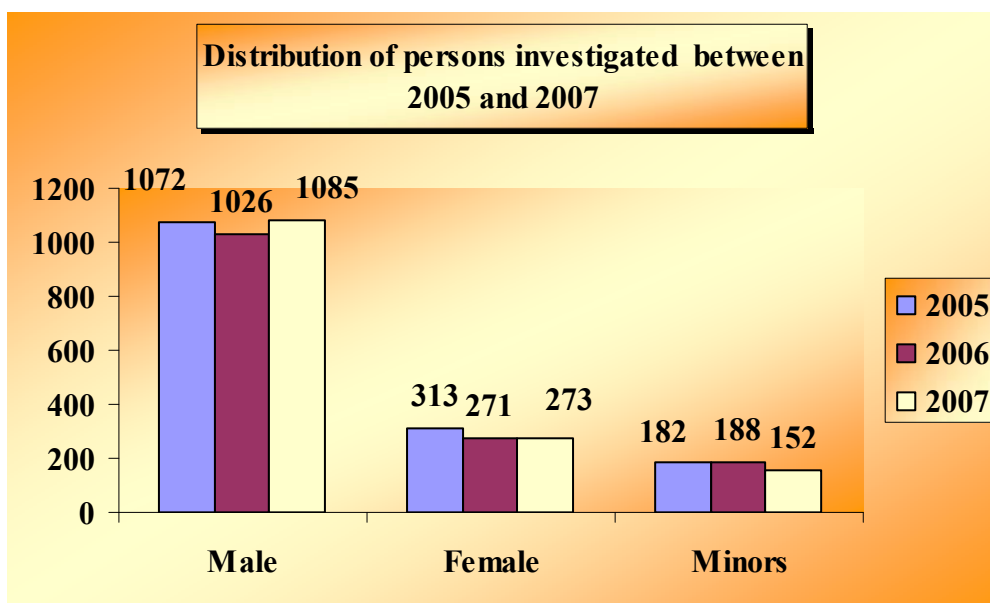


Fig.45 Reporting of persons investigated for trafficking offences throughout 2005 and 2007.

During 2007, prosecutors of DIICOT investigated a number of **2,235 persons** under charges of trafficking offences and **916 cases** of trafficking in persons and trafficking in minors related offences were solved; of these **17.5% (160)** were referred to court, in **745 cases** the court decided not to pursue prosecution. In **11 cases** prosecution was suspended on grounds that the criminal act involved no social threat (art. 18/1).

Of the total number of investigated persons **429** defendants (**19%**) were referred to court, of whom **46** are **minors**, and **171** persons are under investigation while in **preventive custody**.⁵⁵

According to official statistics produced by the Superior Council of Magistrates⁵⁶ **207** new cases under Law 678/2001 were recorded, showing a fall in number as compared to 2006. However, only 53% (in 2005), 44% (in 2006) and 49.7% (in 2007) of cases were solved.

Table 1. Number of cases dealt with under Law 678/2001

Year	In reserve	Cases presented	Total cases for disposition	Disposition of cases
2005	82	149	231	124
2006	106	324	430	189
2007	149	207	356	177

Cases solved in 2007 recorded **427** defendants of whom **199 (47%)** were on trial while in preventive custody; **327** cases resulted in convictions and **14** in acquittal, **3** cases were sent back to the Prosecution Office and in **83** cases the court ruled out otherwise.

Following the dispositions of cases sent to court the number of persons under mandatory sentences for offences under Law 678/2001 gradually increased throughout 2005 and 2007, as compared to 2003 and 2004: from **49** in 2003 to **103** in 2004, amounting to **146** in 2005 and **187** in 2006 and remained unchanged for 2007 in comparison with the previous year – **188 mandatory sentences**, of which **27** convicts were **repeat offenders** (14%) and **12** had **prior convictions** (fig.46).

⁵⁵ Source: DIICOT- Public Ministry, Public Prosecutions with the High Court of Justice and Cassation.

⁵⁶ Source: Superior Council of Magistrates, official statement.

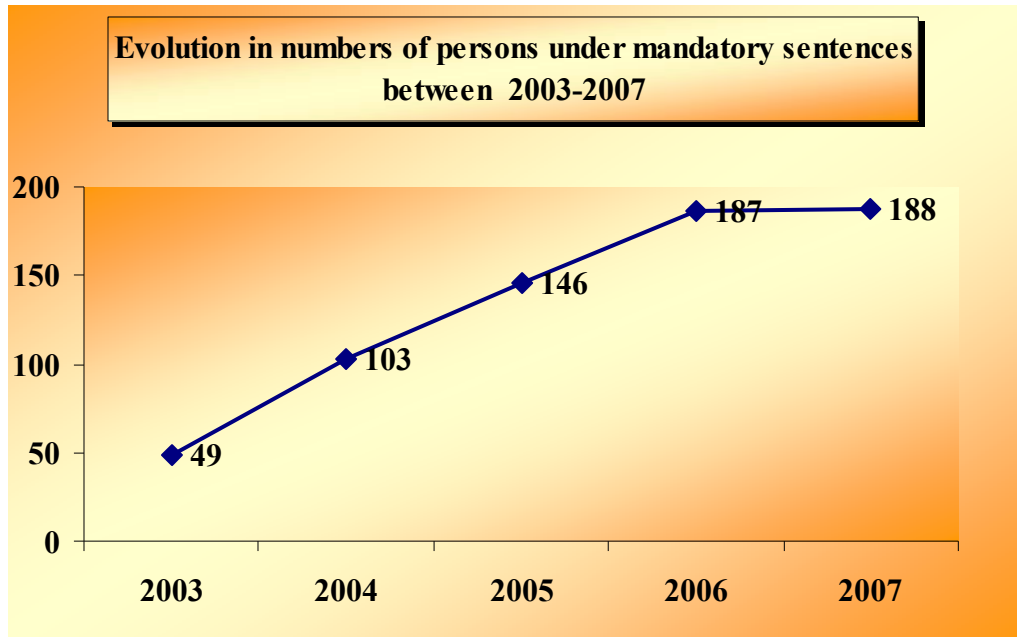


Fig.46 Evolution in number of persons under mandatory sentences/mandatory sentences 2003-2007

36% of those convicted in relation to trafficking crimes were given prison sentences of over 5 years⁵⁷, 40% receiving minimum penalties and 23% were given suspended sentence on parole or conditional discharge to execute the sentence.

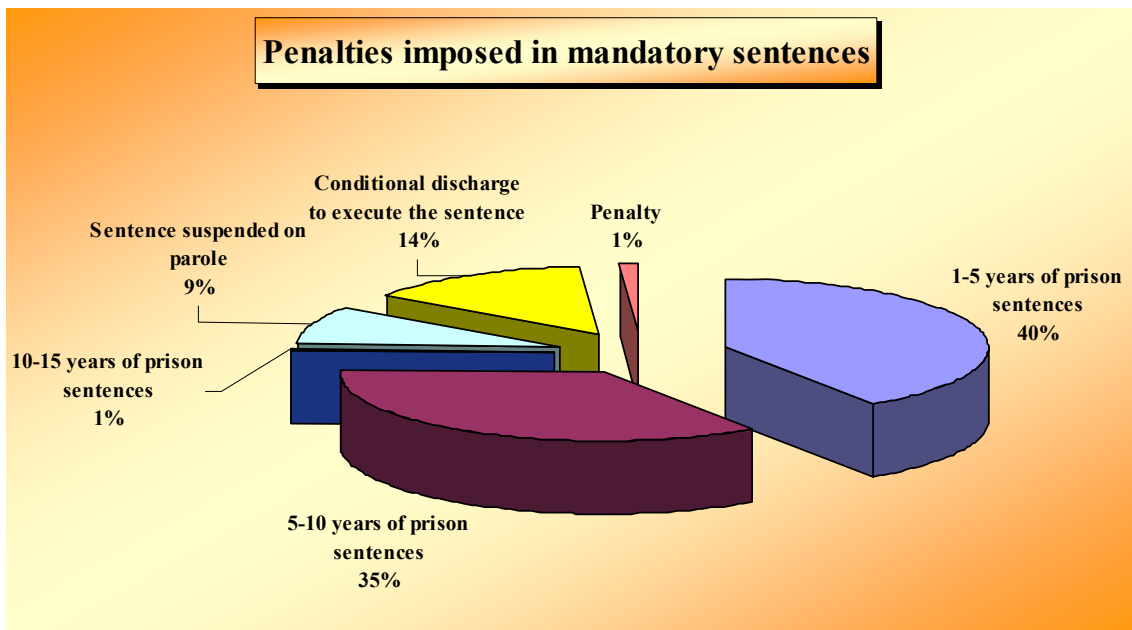


Fig. 47. Distribution of penalties imposed in mandatory sentences in relation to trafficking offences

⁵⁷ One person was sentenced from 5 to 15 years' imprisonment; the sentence was passed by the Court of Law in Iasi.

5.5. Witness Protection

Law 682/2002 and Government Decision no. 760/2004 on the regulations for application and Order of the Minister of the Interior n0.353/03.09.2004 lay out the provisions regarding the measures to be taken for the protection of and assistance to victims as witnesses and/or intelligence sources in cases involving serious crimes, including trafficking in persons and whose life, physical integrity and liberty are at risk.

The authority responsible for the implementation of the Witness Protection Program is the National Office for Witness Protection, organized within the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform and subordinated to the Inspectorate General of the Romanian Police⁵⁸.

During 2007, the National Office for Witness Protection (NOWP) received 2 requests for persons contributing to a criminal investigation to enter the Witness Protection Program. These persons together with their families are currently under the protection program and receive assistance and psychological counseling from specialist personnel of NOWP. According to article 12 of Law 682/2002 on witness protection, witnesses are granted a monthly income until employment and are provided personal security depending on the degree of danger they might be in.⁵⁹

5.6. International judicial co-operation in the field

In 2007 Romania received **59** rogatory commission requests, recorded by DIICOT, of which 40 were dealt with and 19 are currently pending investigation.

During the reporting period Romania made **83** rogatory commission requests, 22 of them have been dealt with so far.⁶⁰

In relation to judicial assistance in criminal matters Romania made 35 requests for execution of European arrest warrants to the following states: Italy – 14, Spain – 8, Germany – 7, Austria – 3 and France, Holland and Great Britain – 1 each. At the same time Romania received 26 European arrest warrants from France 14, Belgium 4, Spain 3, Italy 2 and Holland, Great Britain and Austria 1 from each.⁶¹

Due to the complex nature of the trafficking offence and the fact that the in many cases members of the trafficking network operate in various states, the investigation tends to require a longer time and implies international co-operation and exchange of information between the counterpart authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination in order to dismantle these networks.

A relevant example is the case of trafficking in persons conducted by a criminal group on the route Romania – Hungary – Austria. The case was prosecuted by the specialists of Timisoara Border Police Directorate and Mehedinti County Inspectorate of Border Police in collaboration with the Austrian Police (BK) and the MIRA internal affaires attaché in Vienna under the coordination of the DIICOT Mehedinti field office. The group headquarters was based in Romania and was led by a Romanian citizen with a criminal record for crimes committed both in the country and in EU Member States.

⁵⁸ According to G.D. 760/2004 approving the Regulations for application of Law 682/2002 on witness protection.

⁵⁹ Source: NOWP - IGPR

⁶⁰ Source: DIICOT

⁶¹ Ministry of Justice –Relation with the Public Ministry and Crime and Corruption Prevention Directorate

Several persons (including a woman) and accomplices with specific roles within the network in Austria assisted him, too.

The group members recruited young Romanian girls who were initially employed as entertainers residing in the woman's house that was also the premises of the MOULIN ROUGE nightclub located in Breznita Ocol, Mehedinti County. After a conformation period, the girls were taken to Hungary where they were provided with Hungarian passports forged by replacing the photos, in this way enabling the traffickers to employ the girls as Hungarian entertainers in various nightclubs from Austria.

In Austria, the girls were taken by the accomplices and placed in different locations where they were sexually exploited, threatened, blackmailed and deprived of liberty. Because of these activities, the network members recovered over 80% of the girls' earnings.

The investigation also involved the Investigation and Internal Protection Service (IIPS) and the Romanian Intelligence Service (RIS) in Mehedinti, the DIICOT territorial office and the local inspectorate of the gendarmerie. In prosecuting the case specific and up to date investigative means, methods and techniques were used. Following the operations simultaneously carried out, the network in Romania as well as part of the Austrian network was dismantled.

5.7. Institutional co-operation in combating trafficking in persons

Launched in November 2006 and continued along 2007 the project “**Co-ordination of Victim-Witness in Trial**” aims to create a unitary and co-coordinated response to victims of trafficking as witnesses or injured parties in trials through the co-operation of all concerned institutions involving government authorities as well as social service providers.

The project is being run by ANITP in association with the Ministry of Justice Probation Department, DIICOT with the Prosecutor's Office and DGCCO, IGPR. During the project 4 regional seminars were organized in Timisoara, Craiova, Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca to promote the project, to debate issues related to the consequences of abuses suffered while in the trafficking process and the impact on the person called to testify in court and to discuss the activities to be carried out in the project. The seminars were attended by judges of Courts and Appeal Courts, prosecutors with DIICOT, police and border police officers with the Organized Crime units and representatives of ANITP Regional Centers from Timisoara, Oradea, Cluj, Bucharest, Craiova, Pitesti and Ploiesti.

The program has the following objectives:

- to increase the number of victims of trafficking willing to cooperate with the authorities as witnesses or injured parties in trial;
- to increase the level of participation of victims in the stages of the criminal procedures;
- to observe the rights of the person in relation to his/her participation in trial;
- to inform the victim about applicable criminal and administrative procedures;
- to facilitate the access of the victim who comes into contact with the investigative authorities to specialized assistance services.

The ANITP Regional Centers personnel shall ensure the inter-institutional coordination of victims who decide to take part in the trial and accept to participate into the program.

Their mandate is to:

- ✓ keep constant contact with victims of trafficking;
- ✓ offer trafficked victims information about their rights and the services they can apply to for specialized assistance;
- ✓ inform victims about the court proceedings and developments in the case;
- ✓ inform and prepare victims in relation to the situations they may face during the trial.

Out of the total number of **837** victims initially evaluated by the regional centers, **808 victims** accepted to participate as injured parties or witnesses in trial.

According to victims' status in the trial⁶²:

- **655** are injured parties and **153** are witnesses in criminal cases prosecuted for trafficking related offences;
- **573** of the victims involved in criminal proceedings accepted and requested the support of the Regional Centers specialists for coordination in all phases of the trial;
- **235** declined the services expressing their wish to continue the procedures without any support or counseling.

In the criminal proceedings phase, under the coordination of the Regional centers:

- **425** coordinated victims are in the prosecution phase;
- **148** coordinated victims are in the investigative phase;
- coordination was ended for **4** victims; the court passed a final and mandatory sentence for trafficking in persons offences (which does not exclude the victims' possibility to further benefit of assistance and monitoring);
- out of the **573** coordinated victims, **48** did not continue during the procedures.

⁶² Data refer to statistics centralized at the end of 2007

6.1. The national integrated system to identify and refer victims of trafficking

The development of a national integrated system to identify and refer victims aimed to establish mechanisms and procedures to ensure the relation between the investigation into trafficking offences, carried out by the authorities and the specialized support services. The mechanism has been developed with the view to ensure a coordinated participation of both anti-trafficking institutions, at central and local level, as well as non-governmental organizations in the process of victim identification and referral to specialized support and protection services.

The mechanism is based on identification principles defined in accordance with international norms to ensure that human rights and fundamental liberties are protected and access to support service is available to all victims, regardless their participation in criminal proceedings.⁶³

As yet, trafficked victims' identification was carried out on an individual case by case basis by various institutions or organizations in the absence of a formal or coordinated identification and referral in order to adopt specific actions for victim protection and assistance or anti-trafficking measures.

Lacking common criteria for an initial identification and evaluation, the identification process relied mainly on the victim's participation. In case the concerned person did not initiate contact with the investigative authorities, NGOs or service providers to report that he/she was a victim of trafficking, the identification and referral process was carried out without any particular method or pattern depending either on the specific circumstances of each individual case or the efficiency of some of the institutions or organizations involved in combating trafficking at local level.

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) has developed the draft for the establishment of identification and referral norms which has been submitted for consultation to institutional partners and NGOs. The norms aim to adopt a unitary and coordinated response of all anti- trafficking institutions and organizations in order to increase the number of identified victims particularly victims referred to support services.

Despite their functions and responsibilities, the representatives of public institutions and organizations shall take into consideration the following fundamental principles:

- protection of victim's rights and fundamental liberties;
- protection of victim's private life and identity;
- equality and non-discrimination;
- recognition of victims' right to physical, psychological and social recovery;
- inter-institutional co-operation;
- participation; continuity of actions and measures taken.⁶⁴

⁶³ "National Referral Mechanisms" – OSCE/ODIHR

⁶⁴ Preamble -National Referral Mechanism – in draft

At the same time, it is intended to promote an informal type of identification, distinct from the one carried out by the investigative authorities which shall enable the victim his/her immediate access to specialized assistance services.

6.2 National standards for trafficking victim assistance services

Victim protection and assistance are essential dimensions in any strategies fighting this phenomenon. Respect and protection of human rights should lie at the core of determined efforts by any institution or organization to provide protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking and anti-trafficking measures undertaken should not prejudice the victim's rights and liberties.

Assistance provided to victims of trafficking should be based on a holistic approach, responding to the whole set of victim needs; it should be continuous and specific individual needs of the victims should be met (age, gender, health, cultural and religious background). At the same time assistance should be provided by trained professionals in a safe, secure and friendly environment. Any type of victim assistance should be provided in compliance with minimum quality standards; the main purpose should be to provide minimum services to all victims and individualize assistance in terms of the particularities of each case, therefore taking into account the assisted victim's needs.

To this end, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) developed and submitted for approval the draft of a Government Decision concerning the national standards for specialized assistance services for victims of trafficking. The Government Decision 1238/2007 approved the National Standards for Victims of Trafficking Assistance.

Therefore, National Standards are intended to improve the quality of assistance delivered to victims of trafficking by providing minimum services to all victims and individualizing assistance services in terms of the particularities of each case and the assisted victim's needs.

According to Government Decision 1238/2007, protection and support services are provided to victims of trafficking either in victim protection and assistance centers set up in compliance with Law 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons, subsequently amended and supplemented, or in shelters run by NGOs and referred to as *centers*. Social service providers can set up and deliver assistance services to trafficked victims at their homes and in day care or residential centers.

There are two categories of protection and assistance services provided to victims of trafficking in terms of duration: emergency services and long-term services.

The Government Decision provides:

- ✘ the establishment of a **national victim protection and assistance services network and interagency co-operation**;
- ✘ **main stages of the assistance process** :victim's intake, confidentiality terms, comprehensive and multi-dimensional assessment of the case with a view to establishing protective measures, delivery of assistance services to victims in centers, case assessment and monitoring of post-intervention, case documentation and data protection, case information sharing, victim's departure from the center;
- ✘ **social rehabilitation of victim**: individual counseling program, socio-psychological rehabilitation of victims assisted in centers; norms regarding the

quality of services provided to victims of trafficking: meals, clothes and personal effects, health and disease control.

- ✘ **environmental facilities for victims of trafficking:** day care centers organization/structure, residential centers structure, housing facilities, sanitary and hygienic facilities;
- ✘ minimum mandatory standards related to **human resources** issues: recruitment and hiring of personnel for the centers, basic and continuous training of the personnel, supervision of the centre personnel, professional code;
- ✘ **management and administration** of the centers, management of the Program for the Protection of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking , monitoring and assessment of program implementation.

6.3. National Interest Program (PIN) ⁶⁵ "Improving the protection and assistance activities to victims of trafficking"

In October 2007, the Agency was granted 400,000 RON to finance the national interest program entitled "Improving the protection and assistance activities to victims of trafficking". The program aimed to support the victim recovery and socio-professional reintegration activities for a month period. The NGOs in Romania dealing with activities in the field of victim assistance were the eligible applicants for funds provided by the program.

The objectives of the program had in view:

- a) provision of individually tailored services of quality for victims of trafficking in consideration of their recovery and socio-professional reintegration;
- b) prevention of re-victimization of trafficked persons by multi-disciplinary intervention in accordance with the case complexity;
- c) victim protection and assistance in agreement with the minimum mandatory standards in the field.

This national interest program aimed that:

- ✘ at least 4 NGOs working in the field of victim protection and assistance should provide support to victims of trafficking according to minimum mandatory assistance standards;
- ✘ at least 100 trafficked persons should benefit from protection and assistance both in the specialized shelters and within their families and communities.

Only 3 of the 6 NGO projects submitted for financing at the public project selection met the criteria for approval:

- a) Association for Development of Alternative Reintegration and Educational Practices of (A.D.P.A.R.E.);
- b) National mutual Association - Romania - France „Louis Pasteur”, Braila Section;
- c) Women Association against Violence, „Artemis” Cluj - Napoca.

The three projects were granted a total amount of 170,000 RON.

Though only 3 non-governmental organizations provided assistance, 109 women and men, victims of all forms of exploitation, benefited from the program services, as compared to the anticipated 100.

The PIN 1 addressed both victims already in the assistance process and victims referred to specialized support services during the implementation month. Victims

⁶⁵ PIN1 Approved by ANITP President Decision 1/30.10.2007

received specialized intervention according to their specific needs and the individual intervention plans developed for each case.

The following services were delivered:

- ✘ Social assistance;
- ✘ Psychological counseling;
- ✘ Legal assistance ((specialist counseling regarding victims' rights, criminal action related issues and representation in court by legal counselor of choice);
- ✘ Education (enrolment for vocational training courses and acquisition of school supplies and teaching materials for victims reintegrated in schools);
- ✘ Medical assistance (specialist advice and treatment, medical insurance with the Health Insurances County Companies, registration with a family physician)
- ✘ financial support to overcome difficult situations due to the lack of income (food, personal hygiene items, others). In 2007, only 3 NGOs received governmental funds for assistance provision;

Outcomes of PIN 1 implementation:

- ✘ improvement of post-trauma symptoms with psychologically assisted victims;
- ✘ improvement of health condition;
- ✘ victim's effective participation in vocational training courses;
- ✘ keeping hold of jobs;
- ✘ employment opportunities for victims without constant incomes;
- ✘ no school absence or abandonment recorded;
- ✘ actual participation of victims in criminal actions;
- ✘ no cases of assistance program renunciation recorded.

The qualitative assessment of services provided was carried out by monitoring the progress recorded in the individual case reports and by conducting semi-structural interviews related to the victims' degree of satisfaction with the services provided to them.

Throughout the implementation period of PIN 1/2007, the 3 non-governmental organizations worked closely with the ANITP centers that referred the 109 victims to receive specialized support services.

6.4. Victim assistance: the activity of governmental and non-governmental social actors

Statistics prior to 2007 show that the number of assisted persons is low as compared to the number of identified persons. ANITP conducted a survey in relation to victims' access to protection and support services in Romania, taking into consideration as well, the factors which can lead to victims' exclusion from these services.⁶⁶

The findings of the survey show, inter alia, the following:

- ✘ victims lack information about protection and assistance services – consequence of an inadequate message sent out to the victims when identified;
- ✘ victims do not trust state institutions; victims express their desire to return to their families. Therefore, it is essential that victims' needs evaluation should be

⁶⁶Study available on the ANITP site:http://anitp.mai.gov.ro/ro/docs/studiu_final_2_IULIE.pdf

performed by specialists, with the ANITP Regional Centers (RC) specialist personnel playing a major role.

Monitoring the assistance provided to victims of trafficking was one of the most important activities carried out by the 15 Regional Centers.

In the situation where the service providers can not fully cover the assistance needs - due to lack of personnel or appropriate training and absence of specialist units dealing with adult victims provided for in the organizational charts of public institutions in some regions or NGOs to carry out such activities – the RC personnel (psychologists and social workers) shall supply specialist services for victims' socio-professional reintegration..

In 2007, **1780** trafficked victims were identified and referred to the 15 RC in view of monitoring provision of assistance, proper assistance and coordination in trial.

Of these, **837** got through the initial assessment process- performed by RC specialists (2 in each of the regional centers, each center covering 2 to 5 counties) in order to identify their assistance needs and develop the individual intervention plan.

Out of the **837** victims, **669** were in need of at least one form of specialized assistance and they accepted to be provided services with a view to their reintegration.

As compared to the first semester of 2007, the level of information concerning the types of services available to victims of trafficking to deal with their problems increased thanks to the direct intervention of RC specialists, which also contributed to a raise in victims' degree of confidence in institutions that can provide protection and support.

Out of the **669** victims to have requested and accepted assistance, **69** benefited from such services in shelters (**27** in NGO shelters and **42** in public institution run shelters), while **600** received assistance at home (**476** directly assisted by RC specialists who provided their case management, **8** assisted by public institutions, traditional service providers, and **116** assisted by NGOs).

In most cases, the intervention plan to meet the victims' needs with respect to their reintegration is complex and requires the delivery of several types of specialized services. Thus, **442** victims needed specialized social assistance services, **167** – medical care, **222** – psychological assistance and **537** – legal assistance.

257 victims (**41.6%**) were socially reintegrated and are currently in the post-reintegration monitoring stage (for a minimum 6 month period) under the supervision of the regional centers. Steps were taken and successfully implemented for **73** victims to be reintegrated in school and **158** victims were professionally reintegrated.

38 victims (**6.1%** of the total of assisted victims) ceased the assistance program before the intervention with respect to their reintegration had been finalized.

The RC specialists continue to monitor or provide direct assistance to the other **322** victims.

6.5. Transnational referral of victims of trafficking

Assistance provision to victims of trafficking is a complex process which includes not only assistance in the country of origin. In many cases, the assistance process starts with the moment of victim's identification in the country of destination to be then continued by repatriation, reception in the country of origin and assistance with respect of his/her social reintegration. All of these represent significant components of the specialized assistance process to victims of trafficking and the success of the intervention relies on how each component of identification, assistance before repatriation, repatriation and assistance in respect of social reintegration has been carried out.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Persons provides that *“Each Party shall adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to establish repatriation programs, involving relevant national or international institutions and non governmental organizations.”*⁶⁷ Therefore, victim repatriation related issues concerning Romanian or foreign victims are extremely important and shall be taken into consideration by responsible organizations when developing victim assistance programs. In its capacity as EU Member State, Romania shall ensure that the repatriation of both Romanian and foreign victims of trafficking, identified on the country’s territory, is carried out in compliance with the recommendations of international conventions in the field.

At the end of 2007, IOM Romania completed the financing of victim support programs. The IOM program provided airport assistance for victims of trafficking, both Romanian citizens and foreigners, accommodation in centers designated for transit or long-term assistance, medical assistance and other services delivered by a local NGO partner.

During 2007, IOM Romania assisted 107 victims, 97 Romanians and 10 citizens from the Republic of Moldova⁶⁸, assisted in transit and returned to their country of origin. The victims, most of them returned from other EU countries, were entered into reintegration programs. Some of the victims benefited from “assistance budgets”, while others did not receive any financial support and were referred to IOM Romania by other IOM sections, local NGOs, anti-trafficking structures or ANITP.

The activities carried out by diplomatic missions and consular offices represent another significant component regarding the assistance provided to victims of trafficking identified on foreign territories. Thus, the data supplied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) show that the Romanian diplomatic missions and consular offices were confronted with various forms of trafficking; the most common forms were those relating to trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation, as well as trafficking in minors for exploitation by begging. In order to repatriate victims of trafficking, the diplomatic missions and consular offices cooperated with IOM missions in the respective countries and specialized NGOs, occasionally providing both the necessary material support and consular assistance in issuing the appropriate travel documents for the victims’ return.⁶⁹

The statistics supplied by the national centralized data system show that 88% of the cases implied victims externally trafficked mainly to EU Member States as destination countries. Of these, **76%** though entitled to, **did not receive assistance with a view to repatriation**. Only 4% of the victims were returned with the assistance of foreign authorities, 3% through the Romanian consular authorities, 2% by international organizations, and 0.3% by NGOs, and for 4% of the cases there was no available information. This data point out that most of the victims are neither identified in the destination countries nor provided repatriation assistance for the purpose of their safe return in order to avoid re-victimization and exposure to the risk of re-trafficking.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Persons state that: “The Party of which a victim is a national or in which that person had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of

⁶⁷ Law 300/2006 to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Persons, adopted on 3 May 2005, signed by Romania on 16 May 2005 in Warsaw .

⁶⁸ The victims were trafficked to the United Arab Emirates and assisted in transit.

⁶⁹Source: MFA

the receiving Party shall, with due regard for his or her rights, safety and dignity, facilitate and accept, his or her return”; the same requirement also applies to the party returning the victim, thus building the grounds for cooperation between state parties returning and receiving victims.

Therefore, in order to respect the rights of victims, the concerned organizations and authorities must ensure that the victim’s return is voluntary. The pre-departure preparation period, will depend on the circumstances in each country and related to each individual case. In most cases, the process of securing the victim’s necessary travel documents as well as the recovery of his/her health and emotional balance require some time. During this period, there will be determined the range of services the person needs upon his/her return to the country of origin or, in case of relocation, to a third country which requires communication and information exchange between the parties. The communication must be carried out under strict confidentiality. Sometimes, even this minimum provision of services takes time and identification of a shelter for the victim’s temporary accommodation may be necessary.

The return process with due regard for the safety and dignity of the person implies several stages:

- × medical assistance
- × accommodation
- × case risk assessment
- × creation of a reintegration plan
- × pre-departure preparation of the victim
- × financial support
- × notification of a request for assistance by the referring organization and confirmation of request for assistance by the receiving organization,
- × exchange of information on received and follow up assistance
- × travel planning - itinerary, means of transportation (depending on the distance and the victim’s safety and health condition), arrival confirmation of the receiving organization, reception and carrying on the national referral process.⁷⁰

Unless prepared in advance, the return process could provide the victim’s referral and reception by authorities or service delivery organizations, thus improving his/her chances to accept the follow up assistance.

⁷⁰ The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking, IOM, Geneva, 2007

Chapter 7 INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

7.1. Inter-institutional cooperation in the field of prevention of trafficking and assistance provided to victims

The Inter-ministerial Working Group (IWG) to coordinate and assess activities to prevent and combat TIP plays an important role within the framework of inter-institutional cooperation. Three IWG meetings were held in 2007. The agenda of the first meeting held in January included discussions on:

- main activities carried out by ANITP in 2006;
- activities performed by institutions involved in the fight against trafficking and their responsibilities as set forth in the National Action Plan (NAP) 2006-2007 for the implementation of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons (NSTIP) 2006-2010.

The May IWG meeting focused on the discussion of issues such as: the analysis of activities laid down in the NAP, difficulties identified while monitoring the assistance provided to victims, proposal to establish the Thematic Working Group (TWG) in the field of victim assistance and identification of methods of cooperation with a view to meet the National Action Plan objectives.

The third meeting was held in November and the agenda included the presentation of Government Decision 1238/23.10.2007 regarding the implementation of national standards for victim protection and assistance and the National Interest Plan on victim assistance.

During the IWG meetings there were reviewed also the national action plans developed by the police, border police, the gendarmerie, National Agency for Equal Opportunities (ANOFM), National Authority for the Protection of Child Right (ANPDC) and Ministry of National Defense (MAp) and it was concluded that they all were consistent with the ANITP National Action Plan by laying down measures for common actions in the field of training of trafficking specialists, prevention and combat of trafficking, child protection and combat of discrimination.

In 2007, in order to develop a complex approach of the trafficking phenomenon from the perspective of both the prevention and the assistance provided to victims of trafficking, ANITP concluded 218 **collaboration protocols**, cooperation plans and partnership conventions between the Agency Regional Centers and several institutions and organizations, such as:

- directorates general for social assistance and child protection;
- county school inspectorates;
- county employment agencies'
- county police inspectorates;
- county inspectorates of the gendarmerie;
- border police directorates;
- organized crime squads;
- NGOs.

Partnership conventions were concluded in the following counties: Alba Iulia (1), Bacau (19), Brasov (36), Bucuresti (14), Cluj (4), Constanța (4), Craiova (12), Galati (24),

Iasi (19), Pitesti (7), Ploiesti (25), Suceava (18), Timisoara (15), Oradea (11), Targu-Mures (9).

ANITP conducted a survey on **the inter-institutional anti-trafficking teams** existing in every county. The outcome showed that the teams, constituted as a result of various programs developed prior to the creation of the Agency, were no longer operational. Consequently, the Regional Centers within ANITP reorganized the regional anti-trafficking teams in every county under the centers' coordination.

The teams generally consist of representatives of the following institutions: the Prefect's institution, the Transport Police, the County Police Inspectorate, the County Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, the Border Police County Inspectorate, the Public Health Directorate, the Probation Service, the Prosecutions, the Court, the Directorate for the Investigations of Organized Crime and Terrorist related Offences (DIICOT), the Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection, the County School Inspectorate, the County Employment Agency; their formal set up is based on partnership conventions.

The monitoring of the activities and results of the inter-institutional teams is carried out by a county rapporteur, appointed from among the prefect's institution staff. As of today, **7** such reports prepared by county rapporteurs were centralized. Since the creation of the teams, **51** meetings were organized under the ANITP regional centers coordination.

There were initiated negotiations with **13 tourist companies and associations** with the aim to conclude partnership protocols and conduct campaigns to sensitize and raise awareness of the public about the consequences of the trafficking in persons phenomenon upon the victims. Of these companies, only **SC. Atlassib SRL** answered favorably and they agreed on a partnership on the basis of which preventive activities were developed. At the same time, with the support of the **SC. Atlassib SRL** several victims were repatriated from Spain and Italy.

5 mutual projects with NGOs were or are being implemented (Caritas, Conexiuni Deva, OIM, EURODEMOS, SCOP Timisoara. The activity of winning new partners in the field of human trafficking is ongoing.

7.2. Training of specialists in the field of inter-institutional cooperation

ANITP developed specialist topics for the basic training of specialists making part of the inter-institutional teams in order to assist county administrations to carry out this activity. The following topics will be addressed:

- Trafficking in persons – introductory issues;
- Victims of trafficking – psychological and social perspective;
- Victim intervention and assistance.

Specialists of the regional centers within ANITP developed and delivered **53 training sessions** for specialists who meet victims/potential victims in order to sensitize and raise their awareness about the consequences and features of the trafficking phenomenon. As a result, at national level, **16 community police officers, 392 medical staff, 11 lawyers, 143 educational counselors and school psychologists, 210 teaching staff, 311 proximity officers, 3 labour inspectors, 2 prefect's office counselors, 24 gendarmes and 183 social workers received training.**

Chapter 8

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND THE MEDIA

In 2007, particular attention was given to monitoring the perception and presentation of trafficking in persons related issues in print and audiovisual media, as well as the receptivity of the audience towards such problems.

It is worth mentioning from the beginning that this analysis does not refer to professional semiannual or annual publications, brochures, leaflets or other media products that aimed at informing the public at large in order to prevent vulnerable categories of people about the risks of falling victims of trafficking in persons; the analysis is based on the amount of materials taken over and broadcast by the media channels which were centralized by the monitoring of several publications, such as:

- Information and opinion daily newspapers : Adevarul, Cotidianul, Curierul National, Jurnalul National, Evenimentul Zilei, Romania Libera, Gardianul, Realitatea Romaneasca, Ultima Ora;
- Political opinion newspapers: Azi;
- Specialist magazines on various topics: Pentru Patrie;
- Tabloids: Can-Can, Libertatea, Atac, Click.
- As a result, in 2007 *the trafficking in persons phenomenon* was covered in at least 460 media reports. 24 central newspapers (Adevarul, Cotidianul, Curierul National, Jurnalul National, Evenimentul Zilei, Romania Libera, Gardianul, Realitatea Romaneasca, Ultima Ora, Azi, Pentru Patrie, Can-Can, Libertatea, Atac, Click, Top Business, Play Boy, Politia Romana), 11 local newspapers (Eveniment – Moldova, Hunedoreanul, Ziu de Vest, Sansa Buzoiana, Gazeta de Prahova, Amprinta-Buzau, Monitorul de Neamt, Ieseanul) and 5 press agencies (Rompres, Mediafax, Reuters, Prompt Media, Amos News) created media products (interviews, inquiries, news, photos) relating to trafficking in persons. 429 of these were published in central newspapers and 31 in local newspapers.

The topics with large media coverage reported on:

- apprehension of traffickers and annihilation of trafficking networks, as well as the concerted efforts of the authorities to deter trafficking - 202;
- accounts from British media on sexual exploitation of Romanian women and children;
- Cases of forced labour trafficking in the Czech Republic and Spain (at least 17);
- victims' experiences (24);
- Inter institutional cooperation at international level between ANITP and institutions/organizations with responsibilities to control and combat trafficking in persons and prosecute traffickers (18);
- Data and statistics on the trafficking of persons in Romania (20).

The audiovisual media reflected the trafficking in persons phenomenon in at least 127 broadcasts, as follows:

- 64 on major TV stations (Prima TV, Pro TV, Antena – 1, Realitatea TV, TVR1, Antena – 3, B1 TV);
- 60 on central radio stations (Europa FM, Info Pro, Radio Romania Actualitati, BBC, Radio Total);
- 3 on Channel 4 (GB), TG 24 (Italy) and News Atlantic (Spain).

The *National Agency against Trafficking in Persons* recorded at least 179 media reports (108 in central newspapers, 44 audiovisual broadcasts with central stations and 37 in local newspapers).

The ANITP activity related topics covered the following:

- the info-line telephone number (14 articles in daily newspapers: (Jurnalul National – 3, Libertatea – 4, Evenimentul Zilei – 7);
- bringing into operation of the regional centers and statistics published by ANITP (21);
- trafficking in persons prevention campaign conducted in partnership with Great Britain and IOM (9);
- the “Watch out! There’s a price to pay” campaign (14);
- international cooperation,
- the “Witness in Trial Coordination Project” implemented with the support of the USA Embassy in Bucharest;
- launch of the campaign “ Watch out for “perfect” opportunities for ‘perfect’ jobs!”(17).

The ANITP President gave 13 interviews to national print and audiovisual media (Evenimentul Zilei, TVR 1, Prima TV, Realitatea TV, N 24, Antena 2, “Play Boy”, ”Pro Patria”, “Dilema Veche”, Radio Romania Actualitati, Radio România Cultural, Radio Total, the anti-traffic web site).

The interviews showed the interest taken by mass media in the counter-trafficking activities conducted by law enforcement agencies, specific actions developed by ANITP to reduce the number of persons recruited for prostitution purposes in EU countries, quality of assistance services provided to victims by specialized state and non-government institutions as well as inter-institutional cooperation, implications and consequences of the phenomenon at individual and social levels, recent trends, statistics on victims of trafficking and case studies. The interviews also debated the root causes of the phenomenon and the perception of the public opinion on this world wide calamity.

The Agency President was also interviewed by Channel 4 (GB), TG 24 and Rai Due (Italy) and News Atlantic (Spain) where the journalists showed concern for the evolution of the trafficking in persons phenomenon from the perspective of Romania’s accession to EU and its tendency to shift from a source and transit country to a country of destination for trafficking, as well as the Agency’s role in this context.

On 11 April 2007, ANITP, the Embassy of Great Britain and IOM organized a press conference occasioned by the conclusion of the “*Promises don’t count, but You!*” information campaign. At the conference, the ANITP President presented the evolution of the trafficking phenomenon in 2006, statistics on victims of trafficking and monitoring of their assistance, preventive activities conducted in cooperation with the campaign partners. The British Ambassador in Bucharest pointed out the efforts of the Romanian authorities in preventing and combating the phenomenon by creating the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons. In his speech the IOM official appreciated the positive efforts sustained by the Romanian authorities in the fight against trafficking. Relevant articles were published in major newspapers and the radio and television stations broadcast news about the conference.

On 24 April 2007, ANITP and AIDRom organized a round table on the topic of *“Trafficking in Human Beings as a Social Phenomenon – Collective responsibility”*. The event was attended by specialists from CARITAS Bucharest, ADPARE Romania and ANITP experts as well as mass-media representatives. During the discussions the participants from the Agency underlined the importance of the mass-media in tackling trafficking in persons related issues in general and, particularly, in presenting the experiences of victims of trafficking in the context of profound consequences at personal and public conscience level, the need to respect their dignity and intimacy, as well as in the context of identifying these victims.

NGO representatives stated that that type of media coverage had various impacts on victims receiving care in their institutions and, as a result, a close and authentic partnership was needed between specialists and journalists. Reports on the conference were published in Atac and Curentul newspapers.

On 12 July 2007, ANITP launched its second prevention campaign, *“Watch out for “perfect” opportunities for “perfect” jobs!”*. Both central and local media vehicles gave reports on the campaign (14 articles) pointing out the interest in sensitizing those segments of population vulnerable at the risks of going away to work abroad without any legal work contract relying only on promises and successful stories of their acquaintances.



EU Anti-trafficking Day Press Conference 18.10.2007

On 2 October 2007, ANITP and the Caritas Association in Bucharest organized a public forum on the topic of *“Consequences of authentication of the sex industry in Romania – alternative models”* attended by US Department of State officials, representatives of various Romanian and foreign institutions and NGOs working in the field of trafficking in persons and catholic and orthodox church representatives. On that occasion there were expressed pro and against arguments in relation to the authentication of prostitution according to their implemented organizational policies and institutional experiences. The church officials took a unitary stance regarding the issue by producing moral and religious arguments. The event was covered by media reports in newspapers and on the radio.

On 18 October 2007, the Agency arranged a press conference for *“The EU Anti-trafficking Day”* where the ANITP President pointed out the progress made in the field of prevention of trafficking and monitoring of victim assistance. There were also presented the activities carried out at central and local levels by the Agency regional centers through dissemination of informative and preventive materials and the participation of a broad audience. The event received media coverage in central and local newspapers.

On 20 November 2007, the Agency in partnership with ANPDC and Save the Children Romania, organized the press conference on “*Children Talk about: Trafficking Risks and Protection Mechanisms in South Eastern Europe*”. The Agency President submitted statistical data about the number of child victims of trafficking, complex effects of this type of abuse on children in the context of providing specialist assistance, as well as the role of ANITP cooperation with the NGOs. The event was reported by the audiovisual and print media.

Throughout 1 January and 6 December 2007, the Agency site, anitp.mai.gov.ro had 23,464 visitors of whom 6,444 on the jobs page, 1,293 visualized the structure of the Agency and 1,042 the management page, 1,241 persons visited the page on information about trafficking in human beings.

Chapter 9

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO VICTIMS

Given the transnational characteristic of the trafficking in persons phenomenon, the Romanian institutions with responsibilities in the field continued and intensified the international cooperation activities initiated in the previous year; at the same time, they set up the framework of a closer cooperation with the countries in the South-Eastern European region, particularly the neighboring countries – Bulgaria, Hungary and the Republic of Moldova – as well as the EU and non-EU countries.

9.1 European Affaires

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) improved its cooperation with the main countries of destination for Romanian trafficking victims by establishing significant working relationships with authorities in Great Britain (GLA, SOCA, UKHTC, CEOP), the Czech Republic (the Ministry of the Interior), Austria (Crisis Center – Vienna), France (OCRTEH), the Netherlands (KLPD, Expertise center on Trafficking and Illegal Migration), Portugal; contacts were also established with non-government organizations in Belgium (Payoke, ECPAT), Great Britain (NSPCC), Italy (On the Road, Romanian Spirit), the Hellenic Republic (Antigone organization), France (SOS Femmes), Denmark (Union Soroptimist International, Stop Trafficking).

Upon the request of ANITP, Bulgaria and Hungary offered their support by distributing flyers in border crossing points during the **“Be careful! There’s a price to pay!”** campaign.

Contacts were arranged and invitations sent to the Bulgarian Anti-trafficking Commission and the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement in Hungary with the view to organize a reunion for the exchange of best practices and discussions on ways of bi-lateral cooperation in respect of prevention of trafficking and assistance provided to victims

The Agency specialists participated in the activities carried out by EU anti-trafficking structures, as follows:

- ✓ Article 36 Committee (CATS) of the Council of EU reunion in March 2007;
- ✓ European Parliament public hearing on how fight against trafficking in EU could be improved, Brussels, June 2007;
- ✓ “Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender” conference organized by the Portuguese presidency to the Council of European Union – Commission of Citizenship and Gender Equality (Portugal, 8-9 October 2007).

Mention should also be made about the active participation of the staff in numerous activities organized by EU Member States on which occasions useful working contacts were established and Romania’s efforts to prevent and combat trafficking and assist victims were promoted.

In the field of prevention of trafficking, the following activities attended by ANITP representatives are to be made evident:

- ✓ Study visit on the system of prevention and combat of trafficking in Great Britain organized by UKHTC and the REFLEX Project - Romania (26-30 March 2007);
- ✓ Conference on sexual tourists, organized by the Belgian federal police and ECPAT – Brussels;
- ✓ Wilton Park Conference “Human Trafficking: How best to stem the flow?” (Great Britain);
- ✓ UKHTC first national conference;
- ✓ CEOP international seminar in Bucharest;
- ✓ Wrap up conference of the “The situation analysis of the good practice in the field of the hearing of child victims of maltreatment in order to establish a European cooperation between the police and the legal system” project implemented by La Voix de l’Enfant in France.

Following the visit of two representatives of the Agency to the Czech Republic the collaboration with the counterpart structures within the Ministry of the Interior was initiated and the Romanian National Mechanism for Victim Identification and Referral finalized.

On the invitation of the ANTIGONE Information and Research Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-violence, an ANITP representative attended the experts’ reunion within the “Training and Awareness-Raising of Law Enforcement Officers on the Problems of Victims of Trafficking” project , as a trainer.

The Agency received the visits of various international delegations from organizations dealing with trafficking in persons, such as: UKHTC experts within the “Promises don’t count! But..You!” prevention campaign, liaison officers from Germany and Spain, On the Road NGO representatives and members of the Romanian Spirit from Italy, the Soroptimist Union and Stop Trafficking from Denmark, magistrates from France, CEOP - Great Britain representatives.

Exchanges of information and data were carried out with representatives of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Great Britain and Austria.

Upon request, the ANITP staff exchanged data and assisted the Central Directorate of Investigations, Research and Information Analysis – Aliens and Border Service from Portugal; messages were exchanged with the SOS Femme organization in France in order to obtain identity documents for a Romanian victim; information was shared with UKHTC regarding the Romanian victims identified by the British police, as well as with NSPCC representatives with regard to the repatriation of Romanian victims.

9.2. Obtaining external non-reimbursable funds

The ANITP project proposal - **PHARE 2006-018-147.05.01** “*Improving the institutional capacity of all agencies involved in the prevention of trafficking in line with current European standards and best practices*” - was approved by the Romania’s Representation of the European Commission in November 2007.

The major objective of the project is to reduce the size of the trafficking in persons phenomenon at national and regional level by preventive measures and improvement of the integrated system for victim assistance and social reintegration.

The implementation period of the project is of 12 months with a total budget of 1,063,000 Euros, of which 798.000 – PHARE contribution and 265.000 – national co-financing for the two components: investments and institutional twinning.

The specific objectives of the project aim to:

- Bring into operation the ANITP Research and Public Information Center with the view to conduct studies and research in the field of trafficking;
- Increase effectiveness of prevention measures and raise the national level of awareness on the victimization-associated risk;
- Improve the intervention capacity of actors involved in trafficking victims' identification, referral and assistance.

The project initiated by ANITP under the title ***“Reducing the number of Romanian and Bulgarian victims trafficked into Italy and Spain”*** and promoted in July 2007 within the European Commission Program **“Prevention of and fight against crime”** was approved in November 2007. The specific objectives, inter alia, aim to:

- Promote cooperation and coordination between EU countries of source and destination along trafficking routes;
- Increase awareness of trafficking risks for nationals in EU countries of origin, particularly the Romanian and Bulgarian communities in Italy and Spain and those from regions with a high risk of trafficking, as identified by the authorities in Romania and Bulgaria;
- Increase awareness of trafficking and victims' rights for nationals in destination countries;
- Develop and promote best practices in the field of prevention and trafficking victims' assistance;

In order to implement the project, partnership were concluded with the Directorate General of the Police and the Guardia Civil in Spain, the National Anti-trafficking Commission in Bulgaria, Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities in Italy and UKHTC.

With a total budget of 431,638 Euros, of which 130,000 Euros national co-financing, the project will be implemented for 20 months.

Within the project, declarations of partnership were also concluded::

- Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities – Italy, for the project *“Transnational Multi-Stakeholder Action to combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation. Identification and protection of victims”* (approved);
- Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities – Italy, for the project *“Developing a transnational victim referral mechanism between countries of origin and destination”* (approved).

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland, "*Developing an approach to trafficking in persons from the victim perspective and increasing the public awareness on the risks involved*";
- United Kingdom Human Trafficking Center (UKHTC) – "*Transnational System for Trafficking Data Collection and Management*";
- Ministry of Justice, Poland – "*Suport Services Network for Victims of Crime*" (approved).

The collaboration with Great Britain was effected in the **Information Campaign on Prevention of Human Trafficking in UK "Promises don't count, but You"**, with the financial support of the Home Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office through UKHTC, carried out in the first quarter of 2007.

A fruitful cooperation was developed with the Netherlands, one of the main destination countries for Romanian trafficking victims. Therefore, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved the ANITP project fiche under the title "***Improving the quality of Protection and Assistance Services provided to Women Victims of Trafficking and Streamlining Measures to Prevent Trafficking in Women***".

The project, with a total budget of 173,315 Euros and implemented in partnership with the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Justice in Netherlands, started in April 2007 and finalized in March 2008. The first component of the project whose objective is *the provision of technical assistance in carrying out the National Action Plan 2008-2010* was accomplished and both planning and budget factors were complied with. The Steering Committee reunion was held in November 2007. The implementation of the second component having as objective the development of a Reference Guide for Implementing Assistance Standards for Trafficking Victims started in November 2007.

At the same time, the outcomes of the project will be used in the implementation of the project "***Increasing the Participation of Local Authorities in Combating Trafficking in Persons***", approved for financing by the Dutch Agency for International Cooperation (EVD) within the MATRA 2007 program. The total budget allotted amounts to 400,000 Euros.

Some of the specific objectives of the project aim to:

- Improve the local, national and regional co-operation among actors engaged in activities to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;
- Train the personnel assisting adult victims of trafficking within the Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection selected for the project implementation.

The final stage of implementation will start in September 2008.

During 2007, the Agency became a partner in the implementation of the project "*Victim protection – between law and practice*", launched by the Deva Conexiuni Foundation with the financial support of the Dutch Embassy within the MATRA KAP program. The results of the project consisted of the set up of a multi-disciplinary regional network of professionals working with victims of trafficking. A guide on victims' rights was developed and disseminated.

9.3. Cooperation with non-EU countries and international organizations

As in the previous year, ANITP continued to intensify the dialogue with countries along the trafficking routes. Thus, meetings with officials from Norway, Turkey and Croatia were organized with a view to exchange information and practical ways of cooperation and analyze the opportunities to develop joint projects in the field of prevention of trafficking.

The cooperation with the Republic of Moldova was further promoted in order to achieve a better exchange of data in combating trafficking in persons. ANITP representatives attended the conference on “**Integration of protection and support services for trafficking victims into the welfare state system**” and the seminar *Regional campaign on information, prevention and combating trafficking in women* within the project “Public-private partnership between Romania and the Republic of Moldova” – module 2 (Republic of Moldova).

United States of America has always been a reliable partner to the Agency. During the period under review, the Agency received several visits of the US Embassy officials for briefings on the activities developed by ANITP, such: the national database, the launch of the national prevention campaign or the “Victim/Witness in Trial Coordination” program⁷¹.

With the support of the US Embassy, a study tour to USA was conducted to observe the implementation of the “*Victim/Witness in Trial Coordination*” project and find out alternative solutions to adjust the program to the situation in Romania.

An international study⁷² financed by USAID and IOM on victim/witness coordination systems recommends the Romanian project as the only model of best practices in the region. The project is evaluated against the American experience and considered as a solution to the victims’ situation in the countries of the region. The author considers that “the BiH authorities should request the assistance of Victim/Witness experts from USA and as a regional experience the relevant Romanian colleagues visit BiH and vice-versa to observe and exchange experiences and field practices”.

The Agency paid significant attention to **the collaboration with the American forces stationed at the Kogalniceanu military base** in the field of prevention of trafficking and victim identification. To this end, the Agency management with the assistance of the US Embassy in Bucharest met with the base commander to discuss of their future cooperation. As a result, it was agreed to disseminate information materials about the trafficking situation in Romania including also victim statements in order to sensitize and raise awareness of the phenomenon, as well as an off limits list of establishments suspected of

⁷¹ See Chapter 5. Combating trafficking in persons

⁷²“A comparison of Witness Protection Programs: Bosnia and Herzegovina & The United States of America – To Develop a Victim Witness Coordination System for Victims of Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, Susan Stamper, August 2007 – study financed by USAID and the IOM Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

illicit activities, particularly trafficking in persons. The brigade for Countering Organized Crime in Constanta and the local Regional Centre joined the partnership of this cooperation. 3 such partnership meetings were conducted in 2007.

In order to consolidate the dialogue in the South-east European region, the US organized an international reunion at regional level on the transnational cooperation in combating trafficking in persons, illegal migration and drug trafficking. The reunion was held in Greece and by attending the event, the Agency representatives established important working contacts.

At the same time, two representatives of the Agency attended the study visits within the US Department of State *International Visitor Program*, with a view to promote networking and exchange of experience.

During the reporting period, experts from the Agency participated in 33 international meetings and reunions within the programs developed by international organizations working in the field, aimed at establishing new contacts and developing partnerships to fight against trafficking and assist victims of such trafficking.

The cooperation with the **United Nations Organization** was further promoted; the Agency was represented in the 16th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna, Austria. Following this reunion, the actions were continued to find financial resources for the “*UNODC and the Romanian Government Joint Action to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Romania*” program.

The Agency attended the UNODC Joint Conference – Budapest Process and BSEC on human trafficking related issues in the Black Sea Region (Turkey), where recommendations were made, particularly, to strengthen regional cooperation in collecting trafficking data, promote the transnational mechanism for victim identification and referral developed by ICMPD and use best practices in the participant countries as model in setting up a similar mechanism in the region.

UNODC requested Romania to complete a questionnaire regarding the anti-trafficking activities carried out at national level. Based on the answers to this questionnaire, a comprehensive report will be conducted and submitted to the UN.GIFT Conference in 2008.

The ICMPD Program to Support the Development of Transnational referral mechanisms for trafficked Victims in South-Eastern Europe” was further promoted and specialists from the Agency attended the first ICMPD Regional seminar held in Bulgaria. The seminar submitted the findings of the assessment visits conducted by ICMPD teams to the participating countries and, as a result, the transnational referral mechanism guidelines were developed.

At national level, two meetings were organized with the participation of all major actors involved in the fight against trafficking and aimed to evaluate the second draft of the ICMPD mechanism. The observations and comments made by the Romanian participants were communicated to the project manager and included into the draft.

Later on, Romania took part in the second ICMPD Regional seminar held in Bosnia Herzegovina that submitted the findings of the implementation of the mechanism in the participating countries and the third draft of the transnational referral mechanism.

“Improving the anti-trafficking responses in South-eastern Europe-Data collection and information management” is another program developed in collaboration with ICMPD. In January 2007, an ICMPD team paid a fact finding visit to Romania to meet with the main actors involved in combating trafficking in persons. As a result, specialists of the Agency attended the first regional seminar of the project in Croatia where the Romanian experience in victim data collection was presented.

The ANITP representatives actively participated in the activities organized by IOM on various topics, such as:

- **“International Cooperation to ensure the assisted voluntary return and the reintegration of victims of trafficking in the countries of origin and of other humanitarian cases”** conference (Italy);
- the multidisciplinary training course as part of the AGIS 2006 project (3 rd phase) ***“Multidisciplinary Joint Training process to establish operational networks and develop cooperation between specialists in judicial and law enforcement agencies, NGOs and international organizations in combating trafficking in persons”*** conference (Italy);
 - ***“Perspectives of international cooperation in the field of law enforcement to combat trafficking”*** international annual conference (Belarus);
- seminar on the **EU legislation on temporary residence permit (TRP) and South-eastern European experience”** (Belgium);
- study visit within the **“Migration and trafficking of unaccompanied children”** project (Italy);
- the Vienna Migration Group meeting on **Trafficking in persons –current trends and challenges;**
- regional seminar on assistance provided to victims according to temporary residence permit provisions (Serbia);
- regional seminar in the field of monitoring of trafficking in persons (Bosnia and Herzegovina); wrap-up conference ***“Multidisciplinary Joint Training process to establish operational networks and develop cooperation between specialists in judicial and law enforcement agencies, NGOs and international organizations in combating trafficking in persons”*** (Belgium).

Following the participation in all these reunions, working contacts were established and recommendations made to all actors actively engaged in combating trafficking in persons and submitted to the concerned institutions for observations and proposals.

The collaboration with the **Council of Europe** initiated last year was further promoted. ANITP attended the activities carried out in order to promote the signature of the European Council Action against Trafficking in Persons, as follows:

- **“Regional Seminar on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution”**, (Cyprus);

- **“Regional Seminar on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Measures to protect and promote the rights of victims”** (Germany);
- seminar on **“The use of internet in recruiting victims of trafficking”** (France);
- **“Regional Seminar on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Measures to Prevent Protect and Prosecute”**, (Armenia);
- seminar on **“Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Criminal procedure measures”**, (France);
- seminar on **“ Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Measures to Protect and Promote Victim Rights”**, (Serbia);
- high level conference on the monitoring of the implementation of the European Council Action against Trafficking in Persons;
- seminar on **“Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Measures to Protect and Promote Victim Rights”** (Great Britain).

As regards the cooperation with OSCE, exchange of information with 3 OSCE delegations was conducted and ANITP representatives participated in five international reunions:

- **“Regional Seminar on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Measures to protect and promote the rights of victims”** (Germany);
- OSCE conference **“National Monitoring and Reporting mechanism to Reduce Trafficking in Persons”**, (Austria);
- high level conference on victim assistance (Austria);
- Reunion on OSCE Human Dimension on combating child sexual exploitation (Austria); -
- **“Preventing Trafficking: Challenges and Solutions”** conference, (Lithuania).

a. Legal framework

- It is required that the process of harmonization of legislation on trafficking and social reintegration of victims shall be continued by adopting the draft to amend and supplement Law 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking of persons and the joint order to approve the National Identification and Referral Mechanism which is at present pending confirmation.
- Though recent amendments in legislation entitle victims of trafficking to compensation, international regulations in the field⁷³ also refer to the adoption of additional measures to ensure victims' compensation by setting up a compensation fund that could partially provide financial support for relevant protection and assistance programs. The necessary budget may consist of traffickers' seized assets.

b. Monitoring, assessment and research of the dynamics and evolution trends of the trafficking in persons phenomenon

- In order to achieve an assessment as close as possible to the actual sizes of the phenomenon in Romania a mechanism to record and centralize victims should be promoted. The mechanism shall include victims informally identified by NGOs and public or private institutions as well.
- Studies and research on trafficking shall be oriented towards those fields identified in the present report as problematic by scope and impact, or new trends in order to better understand the characteristics, causes and contributing factors of groups at high risk of trafficking, thus providing the conditions for more efficient interventions.

c. Prevention of trafficking

- In order to reduce related costs and increase their efficiency, the national information and prevention campaigns on trafficking awareness shall be planned and developed according to areas, particularly counties and regions where, based on information provided by law enforcement agencies, there has been recorded an increase in certain types of criminal activities. Such campaigns enable a more rapid response to the phenomenon evolutions and, at the same time, are more easily adaptable to the actual local needs (for example, while some counties and regions are confronted with a raise in criminal actions related to trafficking for the purpose of forced labour to a given destination country, in

⁷³According to articles 15 and 23 of Law 300/2006 to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

others, minors recruited to be exploited for begging in internal trafficking represent the major concern).

- Having regard of the regular evolution of the phenomenon in the respective year, prevention campaigns shall be carried out particularly during the months when the phenomenon reaches its maximum rate (February-April, July- September).
- In the context where most of the victims have 5-12 years of schooling, it is recommended that information and awareness activities should be organized with and within educational institutions.
- Due to a high degree of trust that it enjoys among the population, the church can prove to be an important vector in disseminating trafficking related information. The church involvement in the campaigns could implicitly increase their impact on the targeted audience.
- The role and positions of certain professional categories (family physicians, teachers, social workers, priests, proximity officers, and rural police) within the community, as well as their formal and informal authority can contribute to the dissemination of preventive information. In order to make this process efficient, specialists shall receive training on both dissemination of the necessary information and improvement of interpersonal communication skills. At the same time, specialists shall have information materials made available to them in order to be communicated to the people they are relating to.
- ANOFM and its county offices can provide persons in search of jobs with information regarding the employees' rights in various destination countries, information prevention materials, as well as contact details of institutions and authorities dealing with the prevention of and fight against trafficking, both in the country and in countries of destination.
- The Labour Inspection and the police shall increase their controls on the employers' compliance with the law, particularly in situations where the employees are of other nationalities than Romanian. In order to identify trafficking situations, inspectors should receive appropriate training.
- ANITP shall benefit from additional budget allotments to carry out its local prevention campaigns through grants aimed at developing the prevention projects proposed by NGOs.
- The active involvement of MMFES in preventing exploitation for labour of Romanian nationals both in EU Member States and in Romania is necessary.
- The institutions with anti-trafficking responsibilities, assisted by MAE and in collaboration with institutional and organizational partners in countries of destination, shall initiate and develop, according to the case, campaigns to raise the awareness of the audience in these countries aiming to identify trafficking situations and reduce the demand of services provided by trafficking victims because of their exploitation.

d. Combating trafficking in persons

- The low incidence of trafficking cases in some of the regions of the country in a relatively short time and oriented towards a specific form of exploitation (forced labour, sexual, begging) and specific destination countries, indicates an increased criminal

enterprise of some transnational organized crime networks in these areas. Law enforcement specialized structures shall give particular attention to this type of situations and simultaneously increase collaboration with their counterparts in the recipient countries. Permanent working contacts shall be established at ANITP and foreign partners level as well in order to facilitate the repatriation of victims, and, if necessary, their referral to assistance services and participation in subsequent investigations and prosecutions against traffickers.

- The increase of anti-trafficking activities shall involve international cooperation and exchange of information between relevant specialized structures with a view to annihilate organized crime groups, both the recruitment component operating in Romania and that relating to transportation, transfer and exploitation of Romanian nationals on the territories of other states.
- The formal cooperation between the partner institutions shall be established by joint order of leaders of the respective institutions and shall provide the necessary financial and human resources to continue the “Victim/Witness in Trial Coordination” project which is a model of best practices at regional level. The encouraging results obtained during the last 15 months (only 8% of the victims referred to the ANITP Regional Centers did not continue their involvement throughout the duration of the criminal proceedings, as compared to over 40% prior to the project implementation) show that such practices may lead to an increased degree of victims’ participation in prosecutions against their traffickers.
- Enforcement of seizure and removal measures requested by the Public Prosecutions during the prosecutorial stage, as well as special confiscations imposed by the court in the course of both the trial and the final stages shall enable the setting up of important resources to support anti-trafficking activities, carry out prevention campaigns and assist victims.
- Law enforcement structures shall make efforts to identify victims of trafficking and in due time, input identified cases of trafficking information into the centralized database in order to establish and immediately respond to the manifested trends of the phenomenon. At the same time, late reporting of cases shall dramatically diminish the opportunities for the medical and psychological recovery of the victims and their social reintegration.
- The actions taken by investigative and prosecutorial bodies shall be effected into an increased number of trafficking offences to be detected, investigated and, especially, sanctioned.

e. Victim protection and assistance

- ANITP and partner institutions, through consultation with non-governmental organizations, shall develop a unitary mechanism for victim identification and shall set up an operational system enabling victims to be informed about and benefit from public services and legal assistance available to them.

- Under the circumstances where the number of victims evaluated, assisted or monitored, according to the case, by the specialists from ANITP Centers recorded a significant increase, an appropriate response of the state is required.

The support provided to the centers to carry out their activities by extending their organizational structures shall enable to: • efficiently continue the activities to receive and immediately refer trafficking victims to the required assistance services; • maintain victims as witnesses or injured parties in investigations or prosecutions against their traffickers; • carry out efficient preventive activities at local level, thus, eliminating the inherent risk of blocking the centers to fully operate⁷⁴.

- The Romanian Government, through the instrumentality of ANITP, shall constantly provide the NGOS, under the form of national interest programs, the funds necessary to continue their support in delivering assistance to victims of trafficking.

Many of these organizations were confronted with major difficulties in assisting victims, some of them were even forced to shut down or reduce the number of victims taken into assistance. In 2007, funds were allotted for the financing of the first National Interest Program, entitled **“Improving victim protection and assistance activities”**⁷⁵. Yet, the program should become permanent.

- In its capacity as EU Member State, Romania shall ensure that the repatriation of Romanian victims identified in other countries and foreign victims of trafficking, identified on the country’s territory, is carried out in compliance with international conventions in the field.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) and other institutions dealing with victim repatriation shall include in their budgets the necessary money to carry out this objective.

Statistical figures indicate that, prior to their return to Romania, 75% of the identified victims of Romanian nationality did not receive assistance as provided by the international norms. This confirms that most of the victims are neither identified in the destination countries nor provided repatriation assistance for the purpose of their safe return in order to avoid re-victimization and exposure to the risk of re-trafficking.

- Because most of the victims choose not to return to their families, it is recommended that government policies should be re-oriented in terms of delivery of protection and assistance services within the family and the community by establishing and bringing into operation, specialized services for adult victims at DGAPSC level. In addition, the residential system of shelters should be designated for assistance in complex cases that require additional protection measures.

f. International cooperation

- Romanian institutions shall strengthen their cooperation with the recipient countries, particularly with Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic, Greece and Germany (where a higher

⁷⁴At present each of the 15 Regional Centers benefits from the services of a team comprising 3 specialists – a psychologist, a social worker and a coordinator to relate with the law enforcement structures – and its responsibility covers a geographical area of 2-4 counties; the Bucharest Regional Center covers 5 counties and all 6 sectors of the capital city.

⁷⁵ Financing of the program has been approved for April-November 2008 as well.

number of Romanian victims has been identified) both in the prevention of trafficking and victim protection and assistance, as well as in the combating field.

- Particular attention shall be paid to the development of regional cooperation with source or transit countries, especially with the neighboring countries (Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro).
- It is required that ANITP gets a higher visibility worldwide, the more so, as, with the IOM Mission in Romania having ceased its activity in the field of trafficking, the Agency has acquired an essential role in the repatriation of Romanian victims and their referral to specialized support services. To this end, together with the authorities and NGOs in the main destination countries, the Agency shall primarily aim to establish common procedures in order to ensure the safe return of the victims.
- Steps shall be improved to ensure that Romania becomes an ICMPD Vienna member with full rights.
- Taking into consideration the fact that, according to estimates, Romania will soon become a destination country, the Romanian authorities are required to adopt a proactive attitude towards the identification and assistance of foreign victims exploited in our country.
- In accordance with the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010, all institutions with anti-trafficking responsibilities shall consider the promotion of national and transnational projects to attract funds in order to support the activities to combat, prevent and raise awareness of vulnerable groups about the trafficking risks and to provide assistance to victims with a view to their inclusion into the society and on the labour market.