

ROMANIA





AUR - ASOCIATIA NATIONALA A SPECIALISTILOR IN RESURSE UMANE

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Partner organization:

T“AUR”- A.N.S.R.U. is a pragmatic organization, oriented towards action and prevention In our vision, the activity of human resources means:

- Satisfying the needs of all the professional categories;
- Informing and educating in the spirit of the nationally

and internationally recognized human rights;

- Promoting a real dialogue between all social actors;
- Defining, elaborating and implementing the professional standards within the human resources area;
- Providing professional assistance in the human resources area – consultancy and coaching, training sessions, seminars, workshops, professional counseling etc.;
- Implementing national and international projects promoting human rights and labour rights, as well as the equal opportunity legislation;
- Active involvement in the promotion and implementation of the Romanian development policy for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Elaboration and publication of professional materials (HR, RSC, ILO standards etc.)
- Creating partnerships and networks at national and international level.

ACTIVITY IN FIGURES: 20 years of existence

- Over 20 years of developing HR instruments with more than 5,000 direct beneficiaries;
- Assessment of professional competencies for more than 20,000 employees;
- Over 250 information and training sessions, workshops, seminars and conferences;
- Over 30 projects implemented at national and international level with more than 2,000 direct beneficiaries and more than 10,000 indirect beneficiaries;
- More than 50 professional materials elaborated and published;
- 4 counselling centres for promoting labor rights and equal opportunities;
- 3 regional student operated Television Studios and

Newspaper Departments (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Galati)

- 6 social enterprises developed (N-V, V, N-E regions) - creation of 6 social economy structures;
- 17 short movies production.

Human trafficking in Romania

Historically Romania has been a place of transit for people from countries outside of Europe, such as Turkey, China, Syria and Afghanistan, due to its strategically geographical position in southeast Europe. Romania also has an extremely high percentage of their population living overseas. In the timeframe from 2007-2017 it was estimated that 3,4 million Romanians left Romania, which equals to 17% of the population. Of these 3,4 million people most left for over a year, and it is said that the search for a home with a more attractive and stable economic situation is the main motivation.

Over the years Romania has turned into one of the hottest trafficking spots in Europe when it comes to people being in transit and later being exported to western countries as a part of the exploitation and sex worker industry. People in vulnerable situations who are seeking a better life in Europe are promised good jobs only to end up with being exploited as prostitutes and exposed to other degrading inhuman behavior. Following the "Balkan Trail", Romania is rarely the end destination. With trafficking exchange points in eastern Europe, such as Sarajevo where Romanian women are functioning as protagonists, victims of human trafficking are being sold on to other destinations around Europe. There are alarming numbers when it comes to the increased development of organized crime and the number of identified victims internally in Romania. Between 2011-2014 there has been a rise of

35 % when it comes to identified victims of human trafficking, and most of them are children. They are mainly recruited in person where the exploiters approach the girls and try to recruit them by different methods, but it is also normal to be recruited through social media and newspaper advertisements.

Romania also has the highest number of sex trafficking victims in Europe, and the heartbreaking reality is that young girls are being groomed and exported to western European countries from an age as low as 12-13 years. From all the people that ANITP (Romanian National Agency Against Trafficking of People) registered as victims in the period of 2011-2016, around 48% were being exploited in Romania, while the top 5 destinations for the rest are Italy (14%), Spain (11%), Germany (9%), Greece (4%) and UK (3%). It is because of these growing numbers we see that Romania, and the population of the country, is playing a big part of the European human trafficking industry, and it is something that we see the need to work against.



AIDROM

ASOCIATIA ECUMENICA A
BISERICILOR DIN ROMANIA

AIDROM – ECUMENICAL ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES FROM ROMANIA

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The organization:

ADPARE – is an NGO active at Romanian level and working in the field of human trafficking, at the level of prevention and protection of trafficked individuals. Since its foundation in 2003 until present time, ADPARE's activity has been held exclusively in the field of human trafficking, its work objectives being: the development of assistance and reintegration programs for human trafficking victims and for young people with high risk potential; raising public awareness about human trafficking, promoting the rights of human trafficking victims.

Success story:

The association was founded in 2003, having as founding members psychologists and social workers with experience in assisting victims of human trafficking, adults with mental health problems, domestic violence victims and individuals deprived of natural and common liberties. The experience of the ADPARE team in assisting victims of human trafficking began in 2001, when the ADPARE founding members were part of the support team for the Transit Assistance Center (CAT) for women victims of human trafficking in Bucharest, center founded and coordinated by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Romania.

Services

ADPARE has exclusively conducted activities specific to the fight against human trafficking; these are mainly assistance activities for victims, but also research, training and prevention activities pertaining to the field. With all efforts made, ADPARE team promoted the rights of victims and followed the development of collaborations with other institutions, both nationally and internationally. Assistance services are addressed in a flexible manner, customised to the needs of beneficiaries, the method of work being case management, so as to focus on the resources of the beneficiaries, the motivation for change and their initiatives, in order to increase the level of adaptation of the person to the requirements of an independent life.

Since October 2017 ADPARE is an active and directly involved partner in the implementation of the project „JUSTICE AT LAST“- European action for compensation for victims of crime, having the overall aim to increase access to compensation for victims of trafficking in persons and

related crimes, as well as to contribute to the effective implementation at national level of EU law on victims' rights in the EU member states.

Tips

An efficient action for fighting against human / women trafficking consists in taking into consideration the human side of the phenomena. Therefore it is crucial to develop information and raising awareness activities on the phenomenon & associated risks, designed for the general public or/and vulnerable categories of population (women, young people and persons belonging to groups at risk for social exclusion).

ASOCIAȚIA ELIBERARE / ASSOCIATION ELIBERARE



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The organization

eLiberare - the organisation was founded in 2012 with the aim to prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Romania and it is aimed at finding sustainable solutions for prevention and also solutions to draw attention on public cooperation and engagement to work with the causes behind sexual exploitation.

The main mission of the members of the association is to build an integrated resource base for combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Romania. The resources created through their activity were made available to all the professionals who work, both directly and indirectly, with the victims of human trafficking in order to support them in achieving the common objective, represented by the eradication of this phenomenon. Through its projects, the eLiberare Association wants to promote a culture of partnership, starting from the belief that only by involving all relevant actors (from civil society, business,

media and public administration), trafficking can be prevented and combated.

Success story:

After working in anti-trafficking prevention, advocacy and community development, we launched Project Oi because we noticed a lack of opportunities for women who, because of different vulnerabilities or family situations, cannot find work in a traditional work environment. Also, as a result of trauma, a need for safe communities in which women could come together in a healing, supportive environment was identified.

The project has the potential to materialize in a consistent form of income, with the purpose of addressing the vulnerabilities that initially exposed the women to violence and exploitation.

Project Oi has three main components, at different stages of development.

1. The first component is that of social enterprises in which product design and functional design objects are produced. Here, we work with various organizations that also have under implementation a social economy project and whose services will be contracted to create Project Oi collections.

2. The second component is #SezatoareaUrbana. An ancient Romanian custom is the 'women sitting' or 'sezatoare' where women, especially in rural areas, would meet to knit and crochet together and discuss family issues or plan together family endeavors. The Urban Sitting is a meeting for all who have something to tell, while knitting or crocheting. These fundraising events happen once a month, currently in Bucharest, and they have a creative

workshop format in which participants learn to create a certain object, using either crochet or knitting needles. As with any sitting, there is also a story component, in which we discuss different topics. We are trying very hard to build on the idea of community, where people can find a safe place to express their opinions or develop their knowledge. We also believe in the relaxing power of knitting and crocheting, so this time can be a tutorial for how to channel our energies in one direction, while creating something with our own hands.

3. The last component that is working now is the online portal where we will soon have both an online store and an online learning section, thus offering opportunities for those who cannot come to our events, but who want to be part of our community.

Services

The main activity of the association, combating trafficking in persons, concerns four main directions of action:

1. Public information on trafficking: The members of the eLiberare Association permanently carry out projects having an essential component of educating the public on the specific aspects of human trafficking. The association wants to raise the awareness of the civil society in relation to this phenomenon and to motivate the economic agents in order to offer alternatives addressed to the people in a high risk situation. Among the target groups are the potential victims of human trafficking, trying to inform them about the hidden risks, often in the unfounded promise of a better life. The information actions focus on equipping the community with the resources necessary to prevent this phenomenon, firstly by increasing awareness of this problem at national level. The information is mainly done through monthly online campaigns,

but other communication channels are used, including direct information in some events.

2. Methods for preventing human trafficking: In addition to general information activities, the eLiberare Association also organises specialised training programs, by conducting seminars addressed to people from specific fields involved in combating human trafficking: social workers, teachers, police officers, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, other categories of people (journalists, bloggers, artists, volunteers, young people, psychologists, etc.), anyone who wants to be actively involved in the fight against trafficking can benefit from training.

3. Social Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking: The members of the eLiberare Association provide assistance to those who manage shelters created for the benefit of victims or social transition apartments, through which the aim is to reintegrate into the community the survivors of human trafficking.

4. Developing networks to combat trafficking in human beings The eLiberare Association wishes to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to combating trafficking in human beings. To this end, the members of the association seek the creation of opportunities to bring together, with a view to joint actions, actors from different segments of the society: non-governmental organisations; public institutions (police, social assistance centres, representatives of the political environment); educational institutions (both public and private, formal or non-formal); companies; religious institutions; mediate; artists; opinion leaders etc.

5. Other activities of the association: eLiberare Design Agency association was established as an organisation whose main objective is to combat human trafficking in Romania and, being founded by a group of people with skills in the area of web design and communication, has sought in permanently innovative means to support the cause.

Services

We believe that in order to prevent all the forms of human trafficking, information campaigns on legal migration opportunities shall be implemented as well as improving cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination that will lead to strengthening the border controls, Visas policies and the legislation concerning the trafficking in human beings



THE REACHING OUT SHELTER

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The organization:

The Reaching Out shelter is all about saving and improving lives. Since 1998 we have been serving the victims of one of most hideous crimes the humanity has ever witnessed: trafficking of people.

Over the years we have assisted 470 victims, mostly Romanian women and girls who have been enslaved and abused in many European countries. We offered them home as well as psychological, medical and legal assistance and we made them part of our family. We shaped our activities around the needs of this extended family and we provided everybody with long term assistance with victims spending, on average, one year in the shelter. We helped many to initiate or continue their studies, to seek jobs or do whatever it took for them to rebuild their lives.

We also realised that building a future for the victims of trafficking required us to get involved in efforts to change both legislation and mentalities. Reaching Out spear-headed initiatives to ignite cross-border cooperation for fighting trafficking and trained law enforcement to better respond to the victim's needs. We need to continue. Trafficking is still one of the most lucrative criminal businesses and too many fall pray to it. In fact, since 2007, most of the victims sheltered at Reaching Out are minors, children who need our care.

Success story

The Reaching Out center provides shelter for teenage girls who have been trafficked and trapped in the Romanian sex-industry. Each girl stays on at the shelter at least one year, or until they reach the age of 18, while she is assisted with life skills that help her become independent through empowerment, education and job training.

The overwhelming majority of victims of trafficking are exploited youth who are often runaways or castaways from dysfunctional homes where they have already suffered physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

The purpose of the program was to answer to their immediate needs as identified by the girls: a shelter (or a place they could call 'home'), protection, psychological assistance, medical assistance. Taking into consideration all these, and the dynamics of recruitment and exploitation methods, today's program combines, education (full time, part-time vocational school), life skills (cooking, cleaning, budgeting, crafts), medical as well as psychological assistance, legal counselling, protection during court cases, finding an obtaining a work place.

86% of the girls who have passed through our program are now living independently.

Services

The organisation was founded in 1999 with the purpose of protecting and reintegrating into society the victims of trafficking of human beings, being at that time the only open shelter in Romania. At that time, the program wanted to respond to the immediate needs of girls removed from the prostitution chain, giving them a place to live, protection, psychological and medical assistance. In the years that followed, based on the background cre-

ated by the European human trafficking phenomenon and the establishment of the legislative bases in the field, Reaching Out changed its strategy, joining the efforts to create not only the traffic control legislation, but also the one that establishes rights for victims. Taking into account the dynamics of the methods of “recruitment” and exploitation, the organisation today offers access to education and learning a profession, life education (cooking, cleaning, making a budget), medical and psychological assistance, legal advice, protection in the judicial processes, finding and getting a job.

The victims arrive at the ROR shelter through police, Child Protection and other NGOs in the countries of exploitation. When necessary, the ROR organises the release of victims through their own efforts.

The team consists of four social workers, the manager, a workshop facilitator and two psychologists, providing 24/7 supervision within the shelter. The capacity of the shelter is 12 persons and so far more than 460 people have been helped by the ROR, of which 86% have regular contact with the ROR staff.

ROR operates exclusively through donations that the organisation manages to obtain, through its own efforts to appeal to international organisations, ambassadors or churches from other countries.

Tips

Foster initiatives to ignite cross-border cooperation for fighting human / women trafficking and lobbying for trained law enforcement to better respond to the victim’s needs.