

eLiberare

# Annual Report



2023

**Inspiring  
Freedom**

Bucharest, ROMANIA  
info@eliberare.com  
www.eliberare.com





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# Introduction

I always thought it was appropriate that our anniversary is on April Fools Day: dreamers and pioneers are oftentimes underestimated, but joke's on the naysayers! As I look at another year that passed, it is so obvious that eLiberare is profoundly shaped by the people around its table.

Our seasons are marked by the passion and the skills brought by a team pulling together towards our mission of making human trafficking the exception. While deeply understanding the needs around us, it is the strong belief that change is possible and we can help bring it about that is our moving force: a hope greater than the tragedy of exploitation.

It is in our ethos to set audacious goals: after all, we were started by an American couple who moved to Romania because they believed they could spark freedom in a country that consistently ranked #1 in the number of most trafficking victims from the European Union. Certainly, there were easier contexts, and yet they landed here (both figuratively and literally).

It is in our ethos to create resources and hold them open-handedly: we were relentless in setting up individualized victims' emergency funding, just to give most of it away. We developed award-winning protection models and made them scalable and open-source by design, so that the good could be multiplied. How else would we be able to push for courageous reforms to address some of the most reiterated challenges in the field, if not by personal example?

It is in our ethos to work towards making ourselves redundant: while human trafficking is a business model profiting traffickers and buyers, anti-trafficking work can also become one. We are determined to provide solutions that can be owned at community level so that preventing, detecting and combating human trafficking becomes second nature, not afterthought, within our society.

With that, we are grateful to all our partners, our relentless team, the ones who came before us and the ones who are willing to join this fight, although the challenges seem big and the odds are not always the best. We have a lot more work to do and it feels like we are just getting started.

**We** will continue to ensure that the topic of human trafficking is prioritized at all levels: from grassroots initiatives, to multilateral. We will continue to militate for better protections for victims of human trafficking, especially women and girls, from any form of human trafficking and exploitation. We will continue to advocate and create spaces for ethical representation and participation of survivors of human trafficking in everything that impacts them. We will continue to challenge the myths that make human trafficking hidden in plain sight and make proactive identification the norm.

**The question is:  
Will you join us?**



*Ioana Baber*

**Chairwoman eLiberare**

# The issue of HUMAN TRAFFICKING

National and international reports show that **ROMANIA IS THE MAIN SOURCE** of human trafficking victims in the EU.

In 2023, in Romania there were **451** identified victims of human trafficking (**347** women and **104** men).

**323** victims were exploited on the territory of Romania, while **165** were exploited in different countries within the EU. The difference from the total of **451** victims is due to the fact that **25** victims were trafficked to more than one destination. The main counties of recruitment: **Bacau** (39 victims), **Dolj** (24), **Brasov** (23), **Bucharest** (21), **Vrancea** (21), **Alba** (20), **Constanța** (20), **Sibiu** (19) and **Covasna** (18), accounting for **36%** of total cases.



**9 out of 10 minors** have been exploited in Romania

**20%** of the minors exploited are from the Child Protection System

Age:



**221 minors**



**230 adults**

Trafficking in persons is enhanced by a series of vulnerabilities:



**SOCIAL**

level of education  
area of living

Means of exploitation:

- sexual exploitation **284 cases**
- forced begging **37 cases**
- labor exploitation **67 cases**
- **61** other situations



**ECONOMICAL**

impossibility to find work  
unemployment

**Online Sexual Exploitation of Children**

For young people, the internet and social media are integral parts of daily life. The increased number of human trafficking cases using the "loverboy" method shows that the online environment exposes young people to the danger of recruitment with the purpose of sexual exploitation.



**EMOTIONAL ASPECTS**

lack of affection

A study conducted in 2023 by IZI Data and launched by eLiberare presents the following findings:

- Half of the respondents think the internet is unsafe for girls, while statistics show that 9 out of 10 victims of human trafficking are girls and women.
- 59% of the respondents have heard and know what the loverboy method is about. However, most respondents think that it is not something that could happen to them.
- The time spent on the Internet by teenagers and young people is consistent (4.4 hours on average daily), with access from their personal phones, without an adult being able to supervise the interactions. The preferred apps are also those used by traffickers. Instagram is on top.
- People with low self-esteem, who are insecure about themselves or how they look, or have a history of trauma in the family are more likely to fall into the trap of traffickers.

# eLiberare

## → MISSION

eLiberare is a Romanian organization focused on preventing, detecting and combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

How do we do this?

- We identify and understand the needs
- We create the resources to address the needs
- We empower people in communities to find solutions
- We transfer the models that work.

## → VALUES

### RESPECT

We recognise the inherent value of each person we come in contact with and we are considerate of them.

### EXCELLENCE

We use all the resources available and we are open to new opportunities for growth and learning so that we can achieve the best results in the activities we pursue.

### INTEGRITY

We are committed to following a correct path, which will honor us both professionally and personally.

### EMPATHY

Everyone has the right to set their own direction in life. We understand and accept everyone's decision.

## OUR PRIORITIES



### Prevention education

Reducing the risk of exploitation by creating practical tools that contribute to critical thinking and the development of discernment.



### Capacity building

Organizing training sessions on identification of human trafficking for social workers, teachers, police officers, priests or other groups of people and informal leaders active at the community level.



### Assistance and Ethical Survivor Inclusion

Within the Center for Assistance and Information for the Detection of Human Trafficking Cases as emergency assistance, or on the basis of partnerships with shelters for victims and survivors, in order to reintegrate them into society through mentoring programs or material support.



### Advocacy and public policies

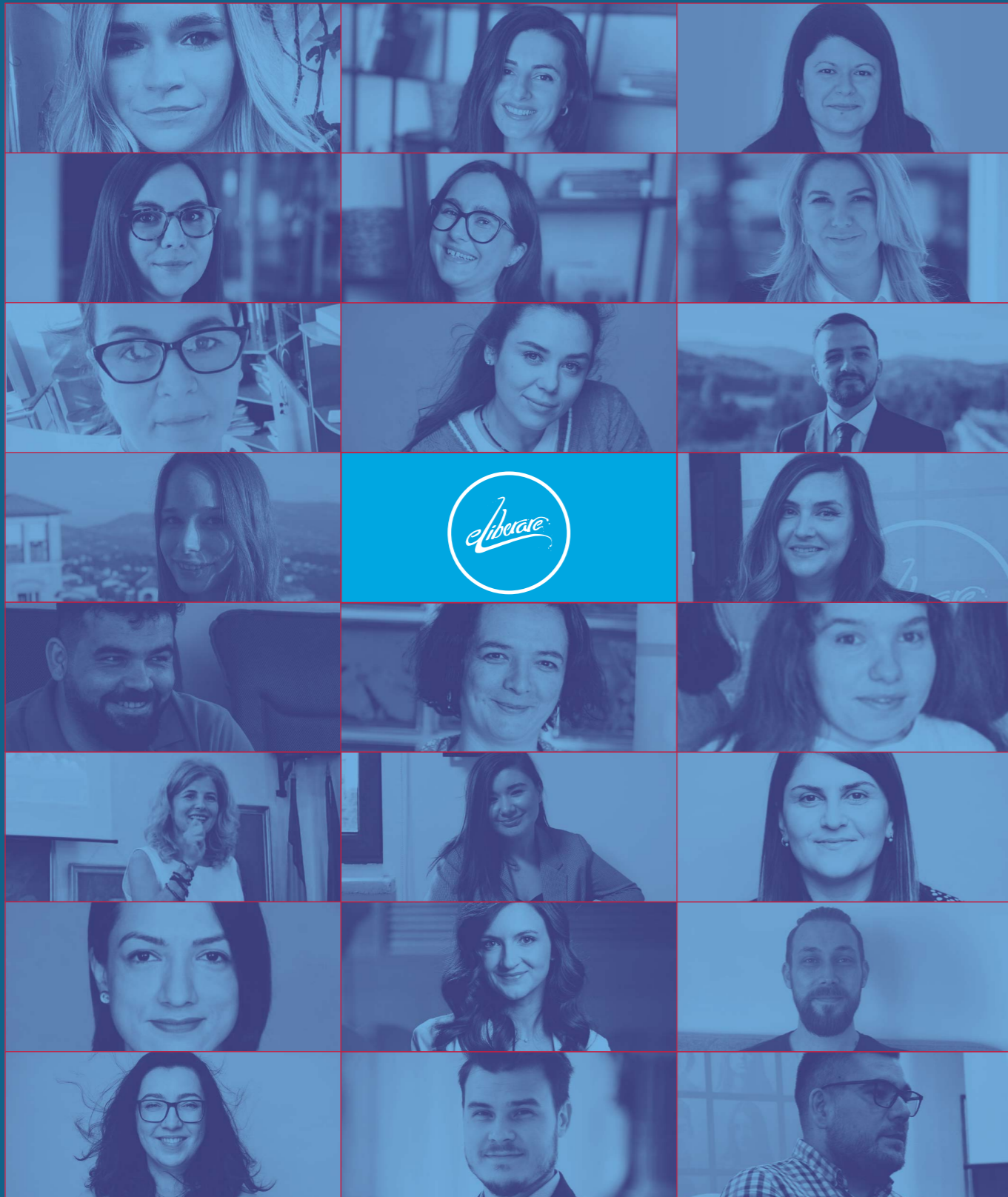
Advocating for a coherent legislative framework, SOPs and mechanisms to support the victims and the survivors, the specialized CSOs and the experts and to reduce the phenomenon of human trafficking.



### Awareness events

Both online and offline, for informative purposes regarding the phenomenon and to raise the general public's awareness of human trafficking and the effects it has on individuals and the society.

## Team & Direct Collaborators



## Our team in alphabetical order:

**Alexandra Dragomir**

**Anca Iuhas**

**Andreea Spătaru**

**Cătălina Rață**

**Cătălina Ioana Stroe**

**Cristina Aftenii**

**Dora Hrelea**

**Elis Pokhvalitova**

**Emilian Sandu**

**Hajni Szasz**

**Ioana Bauer**

**Iulian Tănase**

**Laura Sachelarie Ciubotariu**

**Liliana Căplescu**

**Liliana Orza**

**Livia Rădăcină**

**Loredana Urzică-Mirea**

**Mihaela Gîdei**

**Mirabela Vasile**

**Oleksii Melnykov**

**Tetiana Zavorotnia**

**Vlad Bauer**

**Vlad Florin Tudosă**

# KEY MOMENTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2023

→ The new **National Mechanism of Identification and Referral** was adopted in January 2023. eLiberare, alongside with the responsible institutions and other specialized organizations from the **ProTECT platform**, have been actively involved in drafting the new mechanism which now has strengthened the process which supports the victims to access specialized services.



← Tackling **Online Sexual Exploitation of Children/ Online Sexual Abuse of Children** was one of eLiberare's priorities in 2023. On March 6<sup>th</sup> we hosted a much needed conversation on what makes the teenagers and young adults vulnerable to human traffickers and sexual abusers, especially to those who use the loverboy method and online recruitment methods. The event marked the launch of the **"Study on the perception of young people about online risks"** conducted by IZI Data with the support of the British Bucharest in Bucharest.

→ On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, **Ioana Bauer**, the **President of eLiberare**, was a speaker alongside **Lady Theresa May**, former **UK Prime Minister**, and other leaders in the antitrafficking field at the Commission on the Status of Women in UN Headquarters, during the side-event **"Technological challenges and solutions in combating trafficking of women and girls in overlapping emergencies"**. In her intervention, Ioana mentioned the necessary solutions to reduce the phenomenon of human trafficking facilitated by technology: clear legislation initiatives to prevent and discourage online demand and prioritize proactive identification through innovative solutions in partnership with the private sector.



→ At the end of April, during a press conference organized together with **UNICEF Romania**, we launched **"Kompas"**, the protection intervention model to reduce the risk of human trafficking and exploitative sex among war refugees, and **"The Kozacks"**, the guide for educating children and teenagers in Ukrainian communities to know how to protect themselves from human traffickers.



← In May 2023, in partnership with the Swedish Embassy and the **The International Organization for Migration**, we organized and hosted the **Effective Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation Conference**. International specialists in combating human trafficking for sexual exploitation, ambassadors, survivors of exploitation gathered, in Bucharest, to discuss **"New Approaches to Combat Human Trafficking for Sex Exploitation"**. The conference focused on the changes that can be made to the **European Anti-trafficking Directive**, which was in the process of revision, and on capitalizing on the experiences of victims, in order to develop impactful public policies. The premise of the event was that human trafficking is a cross-border problem, with victims often being moved from one state to another to be exploited, which justifies a common approach at international and especially European level. The outcome of the event was a comprehensive Policy Paper compiling the main recommendations made by speakers at the conference.



Visit the website here



Read the Policy Paper here



→ In June, the **Statutory Rape Law** was adopted which establishes the age of 16 as the minimum age of sexual consent, with a 5-year difference **“Romeo and Juliet”** provision. This measure will enhance a better prevention and combating of human trafficking, given that sexual abuse - in physical form or online - is one of the tools through which traffickers recruit and control their victims.

← In June the new members of **ISTAC** (International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council), a council consisting of 21 members who will assist **ODIHR’s** work in combating trafficking in human beings, were announced. We’re proud that one of our colleagues at eLiberare is a member of the new cohort and is representing Romania during a two-years term (2023 - 2025).

→ In September we introduced a new solution for our beneficiaries in crises: emergency housing. A mobile **Tiny House** located in a undisclosed location serves as an emergency shelter and can be used for victims who are in need of immediate accommodation.



← Another school year marked a **new educational program**. This year the resources focused on the different forms that exploitation can take - both online and offline - as well as on scenarios and a safety plan for students to develop in class.



## Awards

# 23 October 2023 AMPLIFY GALA



Ioana Bauer, chairwoman of eLiberare, received the Amplify Award at the Amplify Gala organised by the Global Center for Women and Justice in Newport (USA), in recognition of her work in the fight against human trafficking.

Ioana’s award is the first of its kind to be presented at this annual gala, which is an important recognition of her work over the years.

“Receiving the **Amplify Award** from one of my mentors, Sandie Morgan, and in the presence of another, Ambassador John Richmond, was an honor, but also a call to greater responsibility in how I will spend the next season of my life. The work of those who want to make a change is not over yet. We must continue to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to this fight and that progress is made in terms of the meaningful inclusion of survivors.” *said Ioana Bauer, Chairwoman eLiberare.*



*Ioana Bauer*

Chairwoman eLiberare



# Preventive EDUCATION

## 1. Educational Programme

The educational pack to prevent trafficking in persons is a worktool which was purposefully created to be used in schools. The resource pack contains all the necessary theoretical information to provide a course, a PowerPoint presentation and two short videos.

The programme was launched in 2016 and it targets students exclusively. Therefore, we create the context through which the target group is

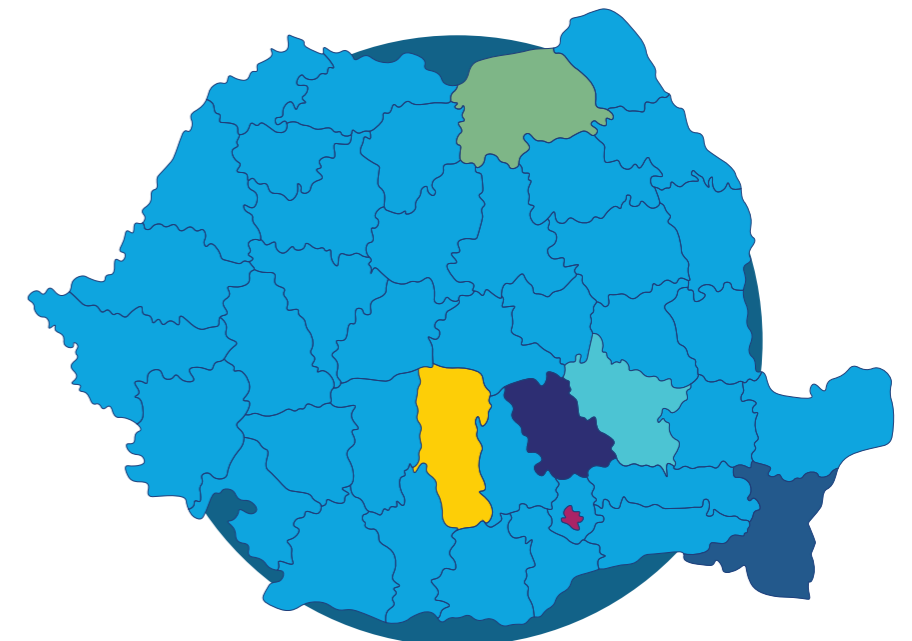
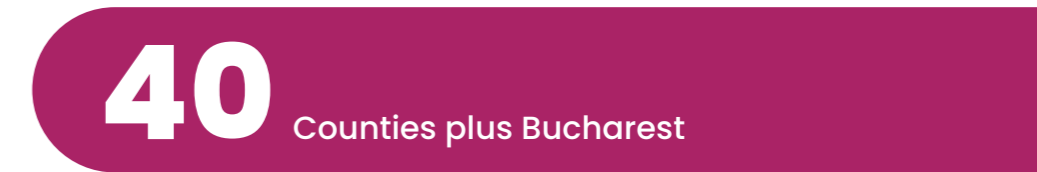
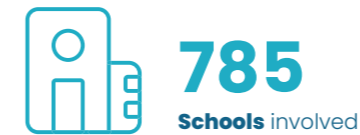
informed related to the severity of the phenomenon, which further contributes to raising awareness.

The educational pack is distributed in schools, having the Minister of Education's approval.

This year's topic focused on understanding human trafficking and online abuse and exploitation of children from a legal perspective, on recognising an abuser and

on reporting the issue to the authorities. The new elements were ten case studies that give students the opportunity to analyse situations and apply solutions, as well as a safety plan consisting of good habits that students can adopt and apply to minimise vulnerabilities and prevent risk situations. Lesson plans and powerpoint presentations were tailored according to three categories: 5th to 8th grade, 9th to 12th grade and vulnerable groups.

### Statistics for the educational programme:



#### Top counties:

- **ARGES**  
60 signed agreements
- **BUZAU**  
37 signed agreements

- **CONSTANTA**  
43 signed agreements
- **PRAHOVA**  
43 signed agreements
- **SUCEAVA**  
35 signed agreements

## Feedback

Teachers' feedback to our question "What made you choose this topic for your classroom?" revealed the realities that children are facing online and offline regarding the risks of human trafficking:

I chose this topic motivated by the positive feedback I got from my students last year when I presented them the material sent by the eLiberare team about human trafficking. The students said: 'It's good that we were informed and warned before making a mistake', 'I realized that you can't trust everyone, that we need to be more cautious with the people we meet, especially online'.

These projects are important and eye opening because they help us to prevent the major problem of our time. Since situations in which students become victims happen more often, and education in some families about this danger is missing, then we, the teachers, try to prevent tragic situations through these projects.

## Info Sessions for children, teenagers and young adults

In our ongoing commitment to raise awareness and equip young people to be safe from human trafficking, we are grateful that in 2023 we have reached 2.520 teenagers and young adults in Suceava, Botosani, Neamt, Iasi, Brasov, Covasna, Hunedoara, Dolj.

Human trafficking remains an urgent issue, and educating the younger generation is crucial in preventing its spread and ensuring the safety of vulnerable individuals.

In 2023, in partnership with UNICEF, we launched a guide dedicated to children of all ages to learn how to avoid human traffickers. Built as a story, the guide is dedicated to parents, educators, social workers or specialists who can participate in children's education on how to protect themselves from traffickers. Inspired by the Ukrainian community, the book tells the story of the Kozak family, a mother with her three children who arrived in Romania following the war in Ukraine.

The story exposes potentially dangerous situations for the three children, to highlight the risks they are exposed to, through the lens of human trafficking. Ivan, 16, is at the age where he is looking for a part-time job, but he has an exam to take. Twelve-year-old Nasti is approaching adolescence and has been placed in a loverboy situation at risk of online exploitation. Nina, the little girl, was at risk of being kidnapped.



# 2.590

Books were distributed in Ukrainian and English.



# Capacity BUILDING

1080 participants, 60 sessions



In 2023, we facilitated **60** training sessions for **1080** participants from different professional categories such as emergency line operators, social workers, police officers, healthcare professionals, teaching staff and professionals or volunteers working with refugees. During these sessions, we have focused on the indicators of human trafficking and how to act if they encountered a potential case of trafficking for all the categories involved. Beside those topics, we have also approached the trauma topic and the trauma impact on victims and survivors and also self-care methods in order to reduce the risk of burnout and other effects related to the work impact.



As a premiere, we trained the workers in the beauty industry such as nail artists, tattoo artists, personal fitness trainers and tourism staff members. According to many stories told by survivors, these professionals often interact closely with clients and customers who might be caught in exploitation, providing them with opportunities to recognize signs of trafficking and take appropriate action. By empowering these new professional categories to recognize and respond to human trafficking, they can play a vital role in preventing exploitation and supporting victims on their path to recovery.



## In 2023 we focused on the following professional categories:

1

Training Sessions for  
**HEALTHCARE  
PROFESSIONALS**



2

Training Sessions for  
**WORKERS IN  
THE BEAUTY INDUSTRY**



3

Training Sessions for  
**TOURISM WORKERS**



4

Training Sessions for  
**POLICE OFFICERS**



5

Training Sessions for  
**SOCIAL WORKERS**



6

Training Sessions for  
**FAITH COMMUNITY**



7

Training Sessions for  
**SCHOOL COUNSELORS**



8

Training Sessions for  
**PROFESSIONALS OR  
VOLUNTEERS WORKING  
WITH REFUGEES**



## At the end of the trainings sessions, participants are more prepared to:

- detect the indicators of a potential situation of exploitation;
- report a valid suspicion;
- communicate with potential victims having a victim-centered approach.





# ASSISTANCE

## 1. The regional Centers for Assistance and Information for the Detection of Human Trafficking Cases

From emergency shelter and medical care to legal assistance and psychotherapy, our assistance programs have provided crucial support to empower victims and survivors on their journey to recovery and independence. Every action taken reaffirms our dedication to standing with survivors, offering them hope, healing, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

### Throughout 2023 52 NEW beneficiaries

were offered to a comprehensive range of services tailored to meet their diverse needs, out of which the most needed were legal counseling, information and social counseling, and material support. As far as distribution according to age and gender:

-  **10** of them were girls under 18 years old
-  **20** were women
-  **8** men presumed labor exploitation victims
-  **14** men - smuggled migrants



In terms of the form of exploitation, we have identified **10 females** (6 adults, 4 minors) who were victims of sexual exploitation, **3 female** adults involved in forced begging and **7 women** at risk of being recruited who received counseling and material support in order to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking.

### In 2023

we obtained the license for the Victims of Crimes Social Service through which we offer services to people all over the country, in collaboration with institutions and other NGO partners. We offer information and social counseling, legal counseling, psychotherapy, emergency, emergency kits and other legal services for every victim that is on Romanian territory.

## Here are the services provided by eLiberare for victims of crimes, and especially on anti-trafficking:

- 1 Information on the risks associated with trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse and preventive advice on how to avoid them;
- 2 Identification and detection support offered via eLiberare's crisis textline and eLiberare's dedicated email address;
- 3 Direct notification of cases of trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse to the competent authorities according to the National Identification and Referral Mechanism. eLiberare does detection and notification of human trafficking cases in our Bucharest center, as well as in all the other 3 centers (Suceava, Brasov, Craiova). We act as intermediaries between the person notifying any suspicion of human trafficking and the authorities. We send formal notification to the police, DIICOT, ANITP and other relevant authorities;
- 4 Crisis intervention by providing the minimum necessary (emergency kit containing the bare essentials, provision of food and accommodation - on an emergency basis);
- 5 Social counseling for vulnerable people, victims or third parties;
- 6 Psychotherapy;
- 7 Legal advice/assistance;
- 8 Medical services;
- 9 Referral according to the needs of the beneficiaries to specialized social services and reintegration services for victims of human trafficking;
- 10 Referral to other relevant public organizations and institutions for victims of other crimes (other than trafficking in human beings).

## Read below a story of how eLiberare assisted a victim of human trafficking:



In **March 2023**, we got a call from a young woman who was living in a country in **Western Europe** and had fallen victim to human trafficking. She told us that her partner had manipulated her into prostitution, and she was desperate to escape but didn't have any money or trusted friends to turn to. She had grown up in a group home and had no family to contact, so she reached out to us for help. She wanted to get back to Romania and asked if we could help her with safe passage and finding somewhere to go once she got there.

We knew this was a serious situation, and we had to act fast. We worked with her to understand her needs and concerns and came up with a plan to get her to safety in Romania. We made sure she got into a local shelter, where she could stay until she could fly back to Romania.

**Once she arrived in Romania**, we had a team of dedicated professionals waiting to provide her with the support and care she needed to start rebuilding her life. Thanks to our extended network of partners, she now has access to job opportunities and is pursuing her education. We are also providing her legal assistance to ensure that justice is served, and the perpetrator is brought to justice.

This is just one of the many cases we managed to identify last year. At **eLiberare**, we are committed to fighting against human trafficking and supporting victims of this heinous crime. **We will continue to work tirelessly to help those in need, no matter where they are in the world.**

## 2. Crisis textline for Reporting Potential Cases of Human Trafficking

The Crisis Textline empowers communities to take action when they have any suspicion of human trafficking by providing a discreet platform for reporting potential cases and seeking assistance.

**In 2023 we received 87 calls and/or text messages on the Crisis Textline:**

- 40** were calls concerning potential cases or people who were assisted with services afterwards
- 22** were requests for information
- 12** were false calls
- 8** other types of calls and 5 were cases which were referred to other types of services

**Out of 87 calls 56 were unique callers**



## 3. Kompass Model

### 2023 represented another year of being involved

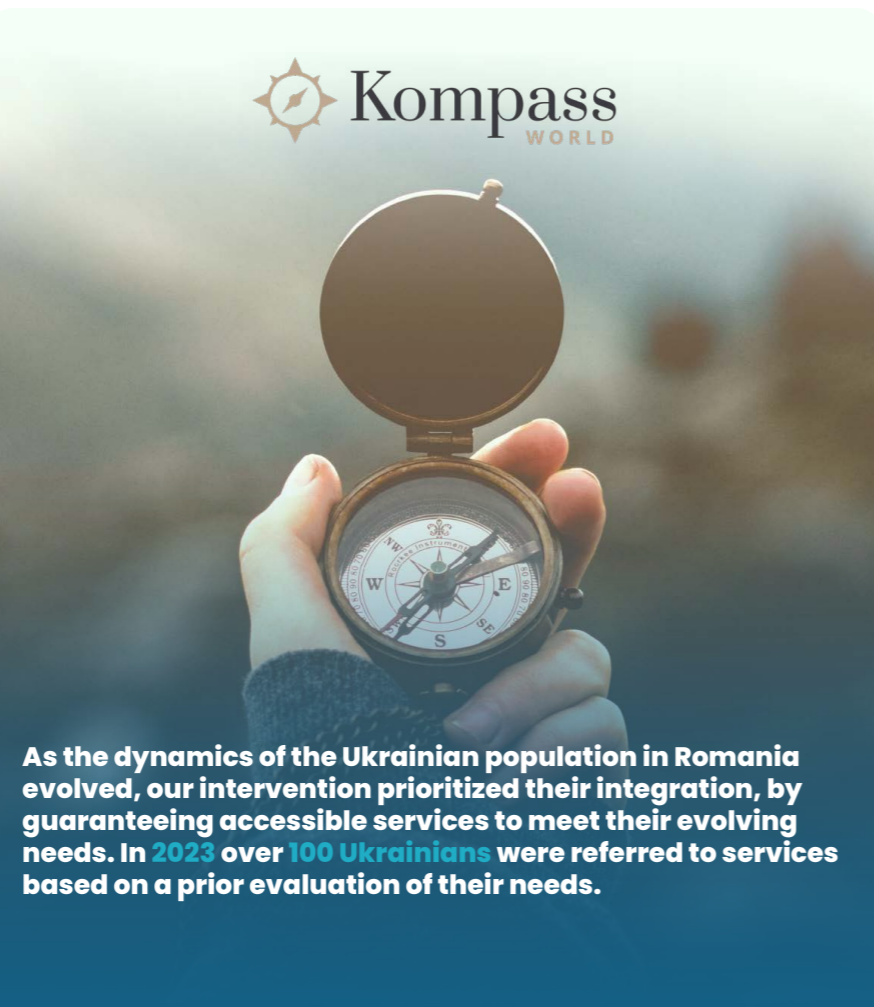
in the response to the **Ukraine crisis**. After the war started, eLiberare developed and implemented an intervention model named Kompass (<https://kompass.world/>).

The **Kompass Model** of Intervention is implemented in four steps which constitutes a barrier against exploitation and human trafficking among Ukrainians and third-country nationals displaced by war.

I am so happy that I had the opportunity to have these conversations about my plans in Romania. There were things I wasn't aware of; you never think that you might end up in a bad situation. Now I feel more prepared to start looking for a job in Romania.

- A, 38 y.o.

Read the report here:



As the dynamics of the Ukrainian population in Romania evolved, our intervention prioritized their integration, by guaranteeing accessible services to meet their evolving needs. In 2023 over 100 Ukrainians were referred to services based on a prior evaluation of their needs.

## In July

we organized an event for stakeholders involved in the Ukrainian response where we had **48 participants** from **37 organizations**. The event took place in Predeal and hosted conversations on *"Mainstreaming anti-trafficking in migration contexts - Building capacity of stakeholders involved in the Ukrainian crisis response"*.

In the first part of the event the agenda was focused on trends in human trafficking in the context of the **Ukrainian crisis** where specialized organizations gave their input. In the second part of the event grassroots organizations from **Suceava, Iasi, Cluj, Oradea, Bucharest, Galati, Brasov** participated in an extensive training session on the early detection of human trafficking cases and on the trauma informed approach. One session was dedicated to the presentation of the Kompass Intervention model. The participants understood the logic behind the intervention and how to better approach humanitarian aid from the protection perspective.

## In 2023

eLiberare signed a partnership with European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration which secured the necessary resources to expand our intervention in the Ukrainian crisis by:



#### ADAPTING THE THE KOMPASS MODEL

to the context from the Republic of Moldova.



#### DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY

of organizations and entities supporting migrants and refugees in Romania and the Republic of Moldova



#### PROVIDING USEFUL MATERIALS

on safety and online safety in Romania and the Republic of Moldova to entities working with Ukrainian young people and clear referral pathways

# 4. ARIPI Magazine 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

Created with and for **Ukrainian women, ARIPI** in its third edition is looking to inspire its readers for the purpose of engaging them in meaningful ways with the communities forming around them as a result of the Ukrainian crisis. The content is focused on helping the reader feel more empowered and informed about getting integrated in the Romanian society. All the stories are based on real experiences that many courageous women shared with the team.

## During the project implementation

we reached **5.000 Ukrainian refugees** through info sessions, providing protection, safe information and referral pathways, as well as through informal community gatherings in **Bucharest, Brasov, Suceava and Vâlcea.**



# 5. Survivor Engagement

When engaging survivors, we consider it fundamental to have a trauma informed approach. **Survivors of human trafficking** have experienced complex trauma, and we need to acknowledge the **long term effects** of traumatic experiences. Their healing requires time and resources. The healing process is complex, non-linear and can influence the way a trauma survivor relates to the context and lived experiences.

## Having this in mind, in 2023

we created the Practical Guide for Meaningful Survivor Engagement as a tool for other organizations who want to start engaging survivors. If you want to access the guide, please send an email to:



[asistenta@eliberare.com](mailto:asistenta@eliberare.com)



# ADVOCACY

# 1. Interinstitutional Governmental Committee at the Prime Minister level

**eLiberare** together with the **ProTECT** platform is part of the Interinstitutional Governmental Committee led by the State Councillor of the Prime-Minister. The Committee serves as a focal point when it comes to collaboration aimed at enhancing

better policies and national programs. The ProTECT platform is a consultative member of the committee and in this capacity attends all meetings and advocates for better policies and procedures. **In 2023 the focus** was on the adoption of the revised

National Identification and Referral Mechanism and the elaboration of the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy for the next season, as well as finding solutions for funding specialized services for victims of trafficking.



# 2. Laws and Policies

## Adoption of the new National Mechanism for the Identification and Referral

**The new National Mechanism for the Identification and Referral of victims of human trafficking was approved through Government Decision in January 2023.**

eLiberare, together with other members of the ProTECT Platform, have actively contributed to the development of this updated mechanism by participating in intense debates and multiple working meetings to complement and improve the previous mechanism. Some of

our proposals are reflected in this Draft, proposals that make necessary changes from the point of view of civil society professionals working on the ground with victims, for better protection of victims and easier access to services.

## Adoption of the Statutory Rape Law

**On June 26**, amendments to the law on the minimum age of consent were adopted, and on **June 28**, the law was finally voted in the **Chamber of Deputies**.

The newly adopted law establishes the **age of 16** as the minimum age of sexual consent, with a 5-year difference “Romeo and Juliet” provision.



## The Elaboration of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2024–2028

eLiberare was part of the three Working Groups according to the 3P paradigm (WG on Prevention, WG on Assistance, WG on Prosecution) which prepared the draft of the National Strategy Against Trafficking in Persons 2025–2029 and advocated for a set of policies that were agreed among civil society specialized organizations. The document is expected to be adopted and published in 2024.

## October – December 2023

### User-friendly guides

based on the National Referral Mechanism for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking in Persons (NIRM).

Based on the **National Mechanism for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking in Persons (NIRM)** adopted in **January 2023**, eLiberare developed, in partnership with Romania’s

**National Agency against Human Trafficking** and the **International Organization for Migration** a series of guidelines for practitioners explaining the NIRM in a simplified way. We developed a guide for specialized practitioners (Police,

Organised Crime Police, National Agency against Human trafficking and other relevant institutions) and another guide for non-specialised professionals / actors in the community.



# 3. Launching of the OSEC/OSAC Working Group

## March 6, 2023

### Launch of the Study

on the perception of young people about online risks. The study was a quantitative research report which eLiberare launched with IZI data and the support of the British Embassy Bucharest.



On the same day we launched the **Task Force for the Prevention of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**. Its ultimate objective was to formulate integrated legislative solutions to amend and

supplement the **Criminal Code** and related legislation to include specific provisions to criminalize online child exploitation and abuse and appropriate penalties. Following the launch a set of

meetings and consultations took place in order to research and draft a law regulating the crime of **Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**.



## 4. Consolidating the ProTECT Platform establishing the Federation as legal entity

As co-chair of the ProTECT platform, eLiberare led the process of establishing the ProTECT Federation with legal status, after being elected by the members of the platform to hold the Presidency.

The ProTECT federation gathers the civil society specialized anti-trafficking organizations, and its main mandate is to provide support for its members in advocacy efforts and consolidation of the civil society sector.



## 5. Collaborations with Embassies and International Organizations

### In 2023, eLiberare

strengthened the partnerships with foreign embassies in Romania. We had several strategic briefings with different stakeholders in various Embassies to discuss the overview

phenomenon in Romania and abroad and find ways to cooperate. Our partners and collaborators include the British Embassy, the Embassy of Sweden Bucharest, Embassy of Germany

in Romania, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Embassy of Spain in Romania and the U.S. Embassy in Romania.

As mentioned above in the Report, during Sweden's Presidency of the Council of the EU we co-organised an event tackling demand and sexual exploitation in Bucharest. **Ioana Bauer**, chairwoman at eLiberare also spoke during the **Conference on prevention models to address the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual purposes**, organised in Stockholm by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Conference marked an important moment to raise political will and tangible action on demand reduction, as the EU was in the process of adopting the new anti-trafficking directive.

During the **Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union** we attended the **"Joining Efforts to Fight Human Trafficking: Best Practices in Global Transnational Cooperation"** conference, where we spoke about the challenges we are facing at European level when it comes to human trafficking and the solutions we identified such as a transnational referral mechanism, European funding for services etc.





## eLiberare

also has closed partnerships with UN Agencies including the International Organisation for Migration and UNHCR for the Ukraine Crisis Response and the national anti-trafficking task-force, with UNICEF in developing tools to prevent human trafficking among children and increase the identification, with UNODC through international events and regional expert meetings.

### Speaking Engagements in UN Events

**March 8,  
2023**

*67<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) in the UN Hq.*

**March  
28–28th**

*“Addressing risks, threats and forms of trafficking in persons caused by the conflict in Ukraine”, UNODC Regional Expert Group Meeting*

**October 6,  
2023**

*Participation as speaker in the UNODC Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons*



Representatives from eLiberare also attended a number of events organized by OSCE in Vienna and Bucharest, focused on tech-facilitated trafficking, NRMs, Ukraine Crisis Response.

### Speaking Engagements and Participation in OSCE events

**April  
2023**

*Participation in the Joint Committee Meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons decided to formally mark the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.*

**July 28,  
2023**

*Participation in the Joint Committee Meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons decided to formally mark the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.*

**October 2,  
2023**

*Participation in the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) 2023 Human Dimension Conference – the launch of the Ukrainian translation of the NRM handbook*

**December  
5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2023**

*OSCE International conference on “Preventing trafficking in human beings and increasing identification of and assistance to victims amid refugee flows from Ukraine: the role of civil society and anti-trafficking hotlines” – eLiberare delivered a presentation in a panel and a workshop.*

**October  
12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>,  
2023**

*Participation in the Regional Workshop to Address Technology-Facilitated Trafficking in Human Beings organized by OSCE, SELEC (Southeast European Law Enforcement Center) and the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons Romania.*





# Awareness CAMPAIGNS

## 1 Dragostepebune.ro

We continued to invest in Dragoste pe Bune, a clickbait campaign designed for teenagers in order for them to be prepared and to prevent dangerous situations. The loverboy method is one of the most frequent recruitment methods and must be a central topic of discussion in Romanian society.

**12.311**

quizzes completed

by **9.887** people

**700K**

reached on social media

Visit the site here:



## 2 Videos on Social Media for Ukrainian refugees

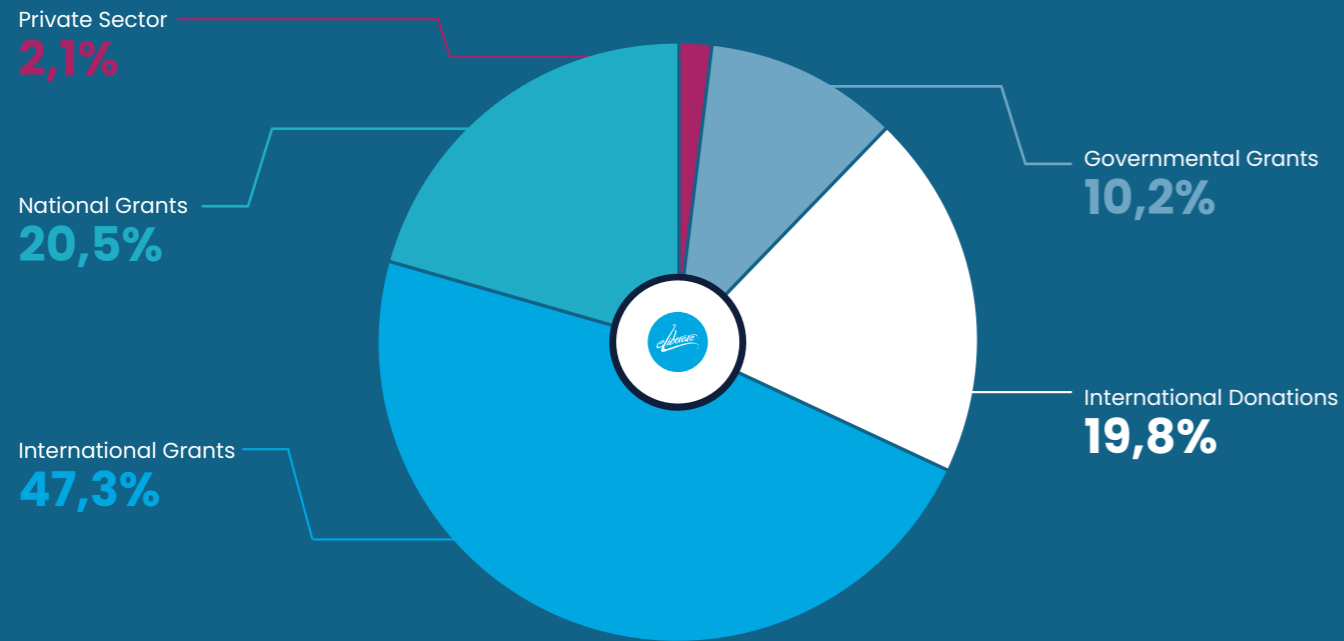
Our team continued to take action and to support Ukrainian refugees who might be vulnerable to the threat of human trafficking as they were forced to leave their homes. Through crafting informative videos shared across social media platforms, our purpose is to empower Ukrainians

to enforce safety measures as they try to rebuild their lives in a foreign country. These videos serve as a beacon of awareness, providing crucial guidance and resources to safeguard vulnerable individuals amidst their displacement.

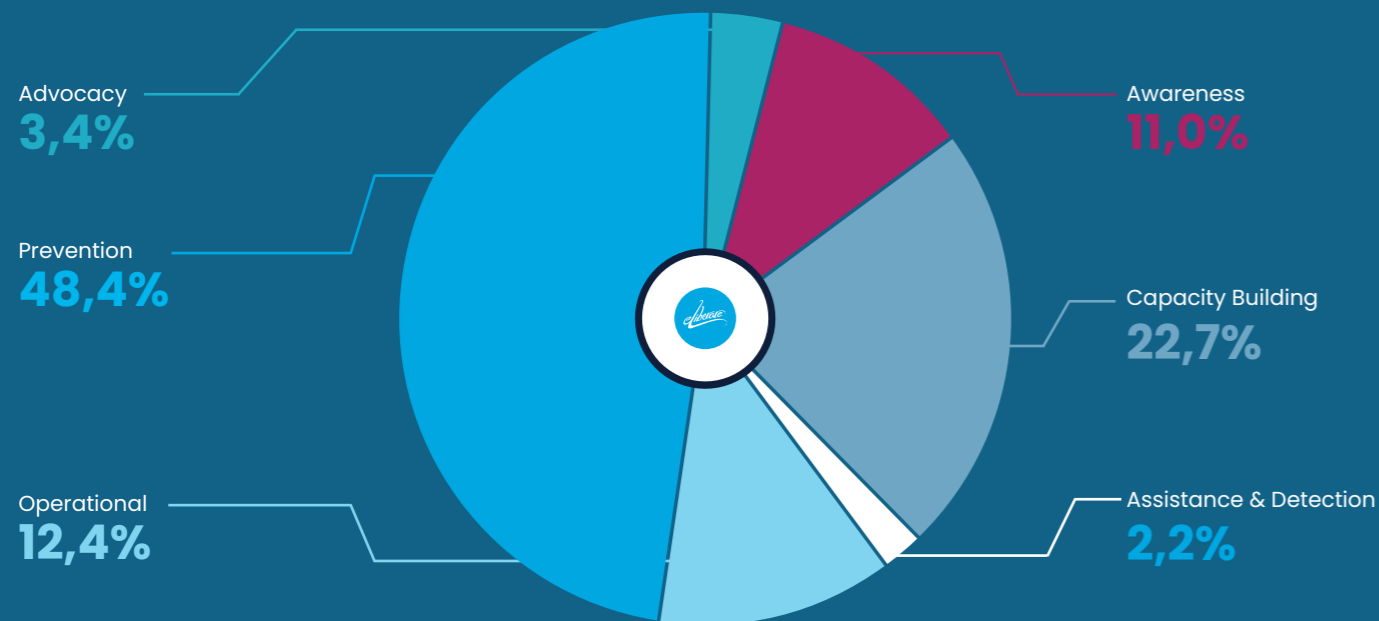


# Financial

## Income sources



## Where did the money go?



## Acknowledgments



## Institutions:



## Networks:



