



SAFE PASSAGE FOR EVERYONE

Kompass

WORLD



IMPACT REPORT

A protection model mainstreaming preventing and combating human trafficking in the Ukraine Crisis Response



APRIL 2023

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was authored by the **eLiberare Association**, in April 2023 with eLiberare's resources, as well as contributions from other financial partners. eLiberare would particularly like to thank the Ukrainian colleagues who joined the team when the war started and who contributed in shaping the response on preventing and combating human trafficking. We would also like to thank our growing network of partners, donors, local, national and international institutions with whom we worked across the year. We hope that all those who have been displaced by the war in Ukraine have found a safe place in their final destination.

act:onaid

americares



Atlas Free
Formerly Rescue:Freedom



care



FONPC
Federația
Organizațiilor
Neguvernamentale
Pentru
Copii
România

**MERCY
CORPS**

OXFAM

project
HOPE

**ROMANIAN - AMERICAN
FOUNDATION**
A gift from the American people


UKaid
from the British people

unicef
for every child

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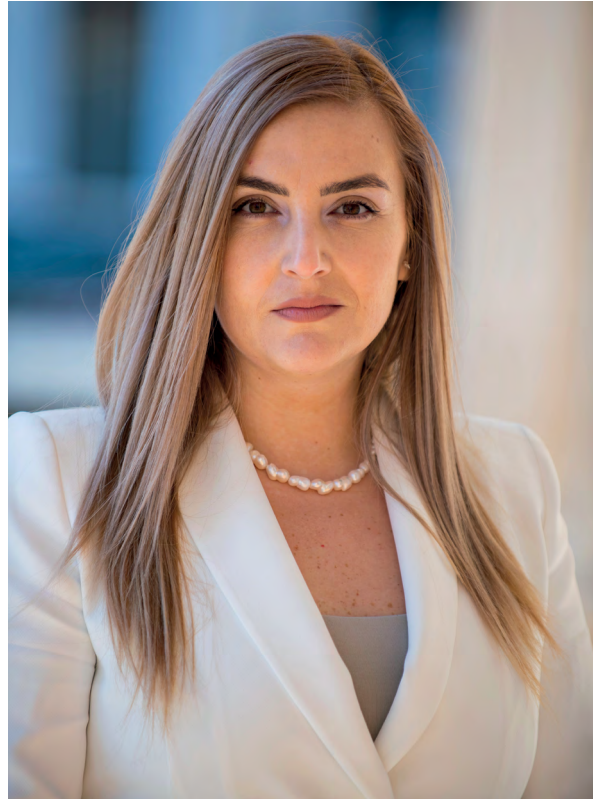
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Foreword



Ioana Bauer

CHAIRWOMAN eLIBERARE

As the world was taken by storm when Russia started its full scale invasion of Ukraine, another tragedy was unfolding behind the scenes: a rampant increase in online searches for terms such as 'Ukrainian escorts' or 'Ukrainian porn'. Specifically, in the UK there was a 200% increase in searches for "Ukrainian escorts" compared with six months before the outbreak of war, while in Spain there was a 600% increase in searches for the term "Ukrainian porn", and in Poland a 130% rise. There was also an increase in searches for these terms in Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France and Switzerland, according to an analysis done by Thomson Reuters¹.

What started as a war of aggression against a country, quickly turned into a fight for freedom for every refugee, especially women and children, fleeing for their lives into what they thought were safer countries, but which actually could turn them into profitable business for human traffickers who are known to exploit situations of conflict and vulnerability in order to supply the ever growing demand for victims, as the aforementioned research analysis showed.

At **eLiberare**, we knew that we needed to act and we made it our goal to ensure that every humanitarian protection intervention would include and prioritise the detection and prevention of human trafficking. Our model, **Kompass**, drew funders and supporters from across the world, as restoring the circles of safety and recreating a community was not only necessary, but it was essential to keeping women and children safe. We now have a resilient network of safe spaces that were trained on the intervention and who are able to implement Kompass in over **8 countries and bring together over 17 organizations**.

What we learned are common sense principles that apply not only to humanitarian and anti-trafficking work, but any intervention that is centred around dignity and empowerment of those it aims to serve:

1. Involve experts by experience, because even the best ideas and intentions will fail to produce the desired results until it meaningfully engages with those it wants to protect. Our team was changed and our perspective transformed once our Ukrainian colleagues joined our team.
2. Build the host communities and their capacity in order to ensure the long term impact of an intervention that will last way beyond the initial enthusiasm. As we are more than a year into this intervention, we see how easily donors and organisations can explain why an ongoing crisis is no longer a priority. Host communities however will continue to cater to refugees, hence ensuring that their capacity is strengthened as a result of the ongoing initiatives will prove to be beneficial for everyone involved long term.
3. Invest in good practice models that have endured over the years. Longitudinal studies have shown that protecting women and girls from sexual violence, including prostitution, trafficking or exploitation for the purpose of pornography production will make sense long term not only from a human rights perspective, but also from a financial standpoint.

Violence against women has cost us roughly 289 billion euros across EU in 2021. ²

The war will exponentially increase that, hence we are responsible to ensure that safeguards are in place for every vulnerable individual, otherwise we all lose.

If we have learned anything from similar conflicts such as the Ukrainian invasion, we should anticipate that some of the results of the war of aggression will be violence against women and girls. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, organisations started seeing an increase in trafficking cases after the first year of the war, and an increase in the numbers as the reconstruction was starting. Not surprisingly, some of the perpetrators were actually those meant to help and protect.

Hindsight is 20-20, but let it also be a good teacher! While we are celebrating the milestone of having over 3500 safety plans up to date and a caseload of 10 notified cases of exploitation that were referred to the authorities, let us not be fooled into thinking that our work is done. This is only the beginning and we need the same determination and resources to move forward successfully as we look at the continuing armed conflict and the 8.1 million of Ukrainian refugees scattered across the globe.

I started this note mentioning an analysis done in 2022 as most of us were watching horrified as mothers were carrying their children in one hand and their belongings in another, while some were actually looking excitedly at how they could exploit those same people. In March 2023 Thomson Reuters repeated the analysis, and while I would like to say that the world came to its senses, the findings show that those same searches are still trending. What is worrisome is that now the results are much easier to find, not only online, but also in those same cities that were welcoming refugees only a little over a year ago.

While that infuriates us, it also gives us the motivation to push through, because our model works and our solutions are more needed now than ever. Thank you for being a part of this journey and for continuing to ensure a safe passage for everyone!

¹ Thomson Reuters Market Insights: Human rights crimes spiking with war in the Ukraine

² eige.europa.eu

Context

On February 24th, 2022, a war started in Ukraine which caused the sudden displacement of more than 8.1 millions of lives.

Since the crisis started, one of the most important components of the response in Romania was Protection, with a focus on preventing and combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In this context, **eLiberare** developed a new protection model which was designed and piloted at national level to address the risks of trafficking and prevent sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced begging and other forms of human trafficking.

eLiberare is a women-led organisation based in Romania that has developed a methodology and the tools to address human trafficking risks during the Ukraine Crisis Response, having a women-centred and victim-centred approach. The intervention was set up to support the Ukrainian refugees, the majority of whom were women and children, in their journey across Romania or Europe, trying to integrate into a new country, a new society with no or little support.

The **Kompass** model was co-created together with Ukrainian colleagues who joined the **eLiberare** team in April 2022. Going through the experience of leaving everything behind and fleeing the country in search of safety, they helped build the **Kompass** model using their lived experience.

Through the intervention, eLiberare realised that the **Kompass model of intervention is designed as a protection model which mainstreams the prevention of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in migration contexts.**

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The **Kompass Model** follows the journey of those displaced by the war in Ukraine. Its aim is to raise awareness about safety measures, develop individual safety plans with those at risk, and offer assistance for those in need. This report is based on the experience of eLiberare and partners during the first year of the war, when 8,463 people were supported through info sessions, and 3,026 with individual safety plans conducted between May 2022 and January 2023 in Alba, Bucharest, Suceava, Dolj, Botoşani, Braşov, Tulcea, Galaţi, Neamţ, Timiş, Oradea and Dâmboviţa, Vâlcea, Iaşi, Sibiu, Alba-Iulia.

The **Kompass Model** is also implemented at national level through the following partners:





The Model

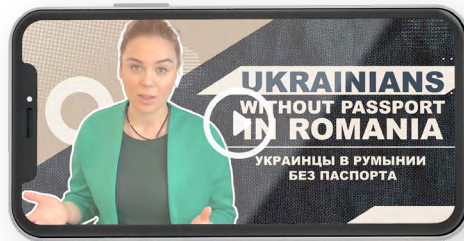
The Kompass model of intervention assesses the risks of exploitation and human trafficking, and addresses the need for mid-term and long-term strategic measures to decrease those risks.

STEP 1

Awareness

ONLINE

The first step is raising awareness among Ukrainians online through the **Kompass.world** website (general information about safety) and **robotainfo.com** (information about labour exploitation), as well as through the **Telegram Channel**, the **Instagram account** and the **Youtube channel**. So far, 17 informative **videos** have been posted, which contain red flags or signs of a suspicious recruitment:



1. How can Ukrainians find a job in Romania?
2. What kind of assistance can be accessed by Ukrainians in Romania?
3. Ukrainian Refugees in Romania without a passport
4. Financial help for Ukrainians in Romania
5. Applying for asylum or temporary protection as a citizen of Ukraine: what's the difference?
6. Travelling with pets
7. How can Ukrainians find safe housing in Romania?
8. Medical service for Ukrainians in Romania
9. Summer camps and schools for Ukrainian children in Romania
10. Free educational platforms for Ukrainians
11. What is Kompass? A conversation hosted by a Ukrainian TV station
12. Inspiring stories: Ukrainians in Romania
13. What is labour exploitation?
14. Safety measures while looking for a job
15. Jobs for Ukrainians in Europe: frequently asked questions
16. Documents for Ukrainians in 2023
17. Transport in Europe for Ukrainians 2023. What's new?

These videos created by the Ukrainian colleagues working in the **eLiberare** team respond to the questions most searched by Ukrainians in Romania on Google. The videos reached a total of **22,285 people** on Telegram and Youtube. The Telegram Channel has **2,338 subscribers** where community updates, safety measures and other useful information can be found, an Instagram account where online info-sessions are conducted, and a Tik-Tok account where content for Ukrainian young people is posted.

OFFLINE

Another way of raising awareness was offline through distribution of Safety Measures Cards. These cards contain **10 safety measures** to be put in place while fleeing to a safe place, as well as all the emergency numbers to have available while being on Romanian territory. Approximately **25,000 cards** have been distributed until now.



An important component of the awareness part was dedicated to preventing labour exploitation, through the **robotainfo.com** platform.



As a result of the prolonged conflict, the risk of labour exploitation becomes more acute as people's savings are depleting or access to other resources becomes more limited. **Robotainfo.com** is a tailored platform which hosts a campaign that raises awareness on the risk of labour exploitation through online and offline information, individual and group orientation sessions. The target of the platform is to build capacity among those vulnerable regarding their labour rights in Europe, safety measures that must be enforced if they're looking for a job in Europe and signs of suspicious recruitment. We estimate that we reached through this campaign a number of 32621 people.



410,000

total online reach estimated for 1 year Ukraine intervention



1209

reached for employment assistance



1839

flyers distributed one-on-one in 30 locations



**CRISIS
TEXTLINE
SUPPORT**

During the Ukraine Crisis Response, eLiberare’s Crisis Textline on WhatsApp became a trusted information line for refugees and a place where they disclosed potential dangerous situations. A total of 550 people were accompanied to access various services in Romania. Moreover, the Crisis Textline was also a channel to report abuse.

eLiberare Crisis Textline —→ WhatsApp: +40 757 749 845

One particular case was of a woman who was a beneficiary of our **Kompass** intervention and she texted our Helpline with the safety password she set up with our team. The woman was a victim of gender based violence even before she travelled to Romania. Unfortunately, her aggressor followed her on to Romania. The eLiberare team put her in contact with the Romanian authorities and GBV specialised CSOs which helped her get a Protection Order.

STEP 2

Capacity Building for displaced people from Ukraine

People need a compass to navigate, firstly the bureaucracy in order to access help in Romania, and secondly a “roadmap” to travel safely across Europe. The info sessions designed by **eLiberare** respond to this need. Essential information about rights and responsibilities, but also about possible risks and measures to mitigate them are presented to beneficiaries in a language known by them. Since the beginning of the implementation, **8,463 Ukrainians** have been informed by eLiberare team members in info-sessions.

1,795

persons informed have also received a **dignity kit** or a **dignity box** which contains:



**WATER-RESISTANT
BACKPACK**



**POWER
BARS**



**HYGIENE
PRODUCTS**



**WET WIPES
AND TISSUES**



**FIRST AID
MINI KIT**



**REFILLABLE
WATER
BOTTLE**



**POWER
BANK**

STEP 3

Individualised Safety Plans



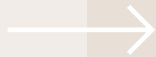
Vulnerabilities and traumas can pave the way for a person to be trafficked. While escaping the war, Ukrainians end up being susceptible to deception and exploitation due to compound vulnerabilities (escaping war, limited resources, lack of paperwork, need for emergency assistance, etc.). In its field work, eLiberare screens the persons' vulnerabilities and correlates them with the risk for exploitation.

The vast majority of Ukrainians who are in Romania did not have resources to prepare in advance for leaving their country. Those at high risk are usually people who have been experiencing violence or abuse, who are GBV victims, who have disabilities, young adults or single mothers with young children in care.

In order to mitigate the vulnerabilities mentioned above, each of the 3,062 Ukrainians assisted received an individual safety plan that contained reliable information and safe contacts.

1,684

safety passwords
were set up with
our team as a
safety measure.

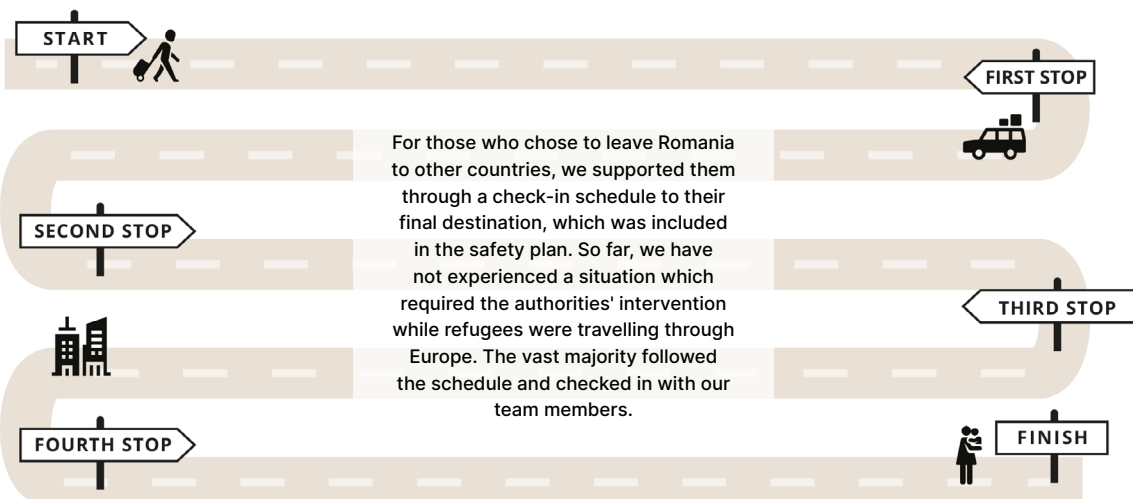


Although **94,5%** of the people who received a safety plan gave us permission to alert authorities in case they get lost along the journey, there was no situation that needed to access this option.

SAFETY PASSWORDS WERE SET UP
BETWEEN APRIL 22 - JAN 23



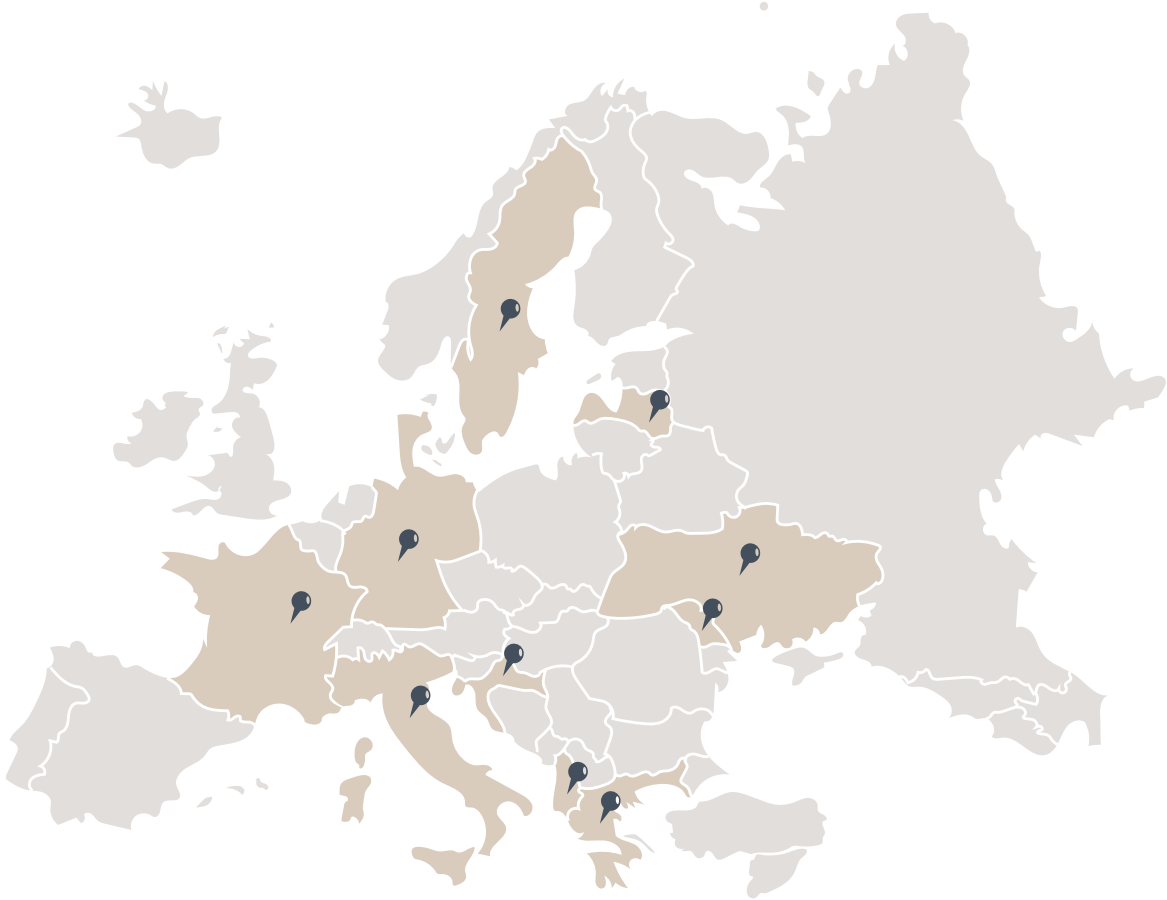
CHECK-IN SCHEDULE:



STEP 4

Assistance

The final step of the intervention is assisting individuals, who are either travelling to their final destinations, or staying in Romania. For those travelling to other countries, the intervention team sets up check-in points throughout the journey, in different locations, so that in case a check-point is missed, our team can intervene through the partners network or through the local authorities in that specific country. At the moment, **eLiberare** has 21 partners across Romania and 17 partners in Europe that serve as Safe Places in **Albania, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine**. These organisations are referral pathways for those who travel further and who have a high level of risk.



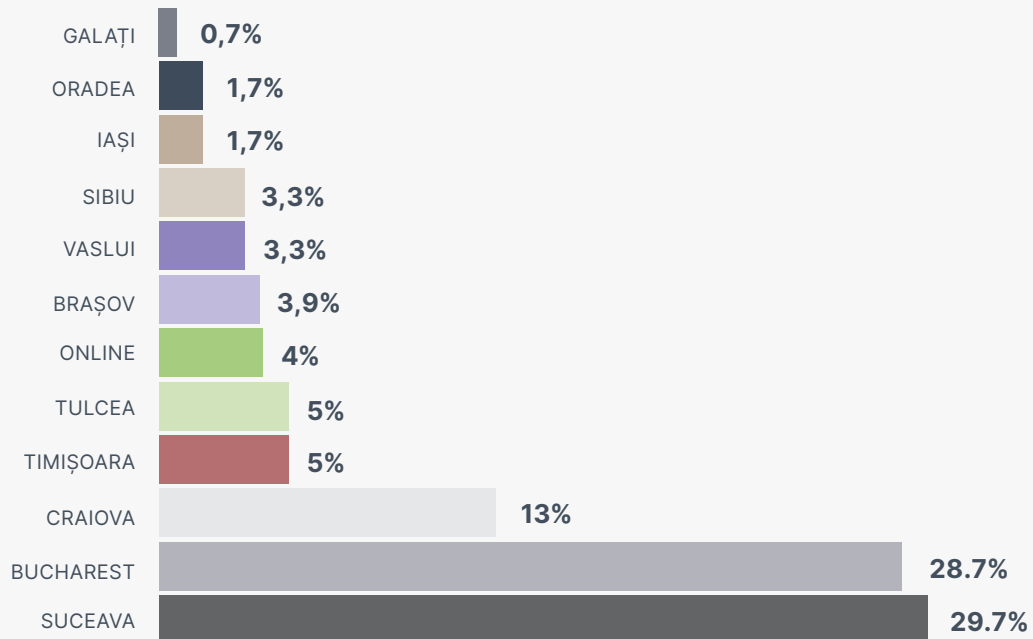
For those staying in Romania, eLiberare has developed a set of services, including social services, legal assistance for those looking for a job or having a job, mediation, translation, basic needs, referral to specialised services.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FRONTLINERS

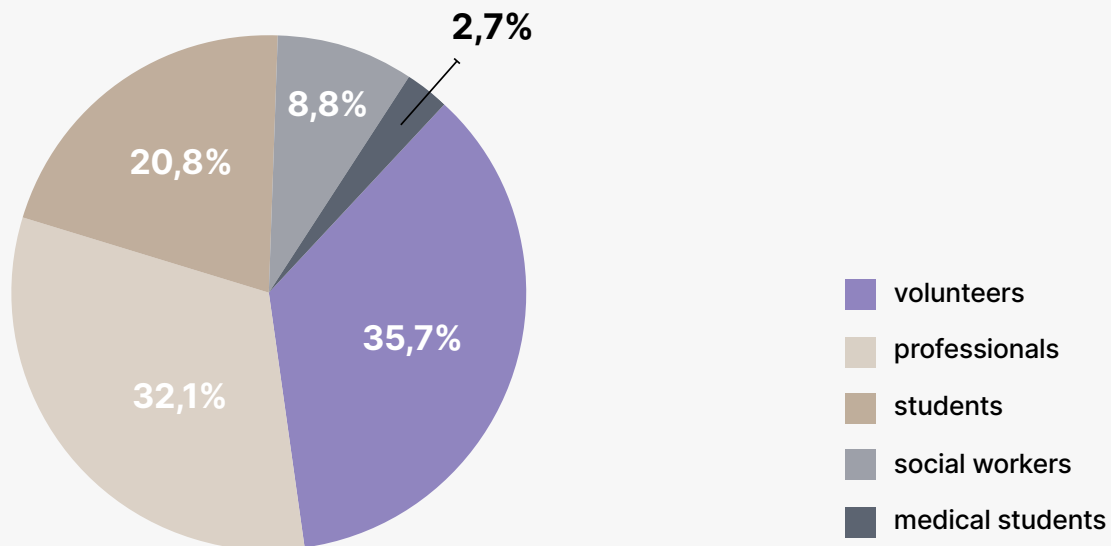
In most of the cases, the first responders and professionals represent key contacts for potential victims, regardless of their destination. Knowing and recognizing the indicators of human trafficking can contribute decisively to ending exploitation for a person or a person in process of being recruited through immediate referral to the authorities.

eLiberare has facilitated 60 training sessions for 900 professionals or volunteers working with refugees, which focused on indicators of human trafficking in the context of the Ukrainian crisis and response methods in potential cases of trafficking.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED BY LOCATION



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED BY OCCUPATION



Other topics covered in these sessions were the impact of trauma on victims, survivors' behavioural patterns and self care methods for the prevention of burnout and other effects related to the impact of labour conditions. Data related to trainings and safety plans includes activities between April 22 - Jan 23.



Findings

In the next chapter of the report we will focus on the findings, trends and concerns after analysing our direct intervention for 3,062 individuals. The report does not represent sociological research, but rather a collection of findings from direct experience working with Ukrainian beneficiaries of the Kompass intervention. The data was collected between April 2022 – January 2023 with the consent of the beneficiaries assisted by eLiberare and it helped shape the intervention.

The percentages presented in the following sections are analysed internally by our Monitoring and Evaluation officer.

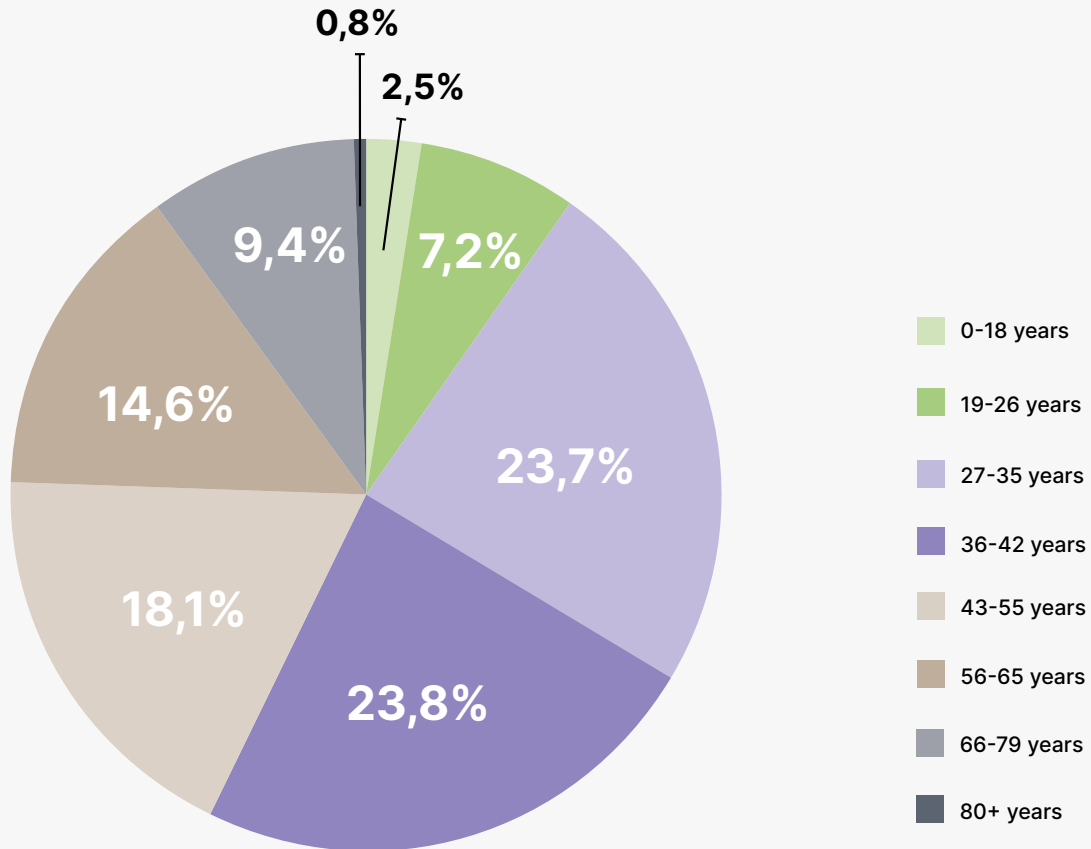


Demographics

Between April 2022 and January 2023, through The Kompass Model, eLiberare conducted individual initial evaluations for 3,062 refugees who fled from the conflict in Ukraine and sought safety in Romania.

As a prevention-focused organisation, eLiberare recognized the importance of assessing the needs and vulnerabilities of the refugees in order to provide effective support and assistance. The initial evaluations provided critical insight into the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these individuals and allowed eLiberare to address the risks of trafficking and prevent sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced begging and other forms of exploitation. The following part of the report follows the profile of the population assisted through the Kompass Model.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN WHO BENEFITED FROM THE INTERVENTION



GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WHO BENEFITED FROM THE INTERVENTION



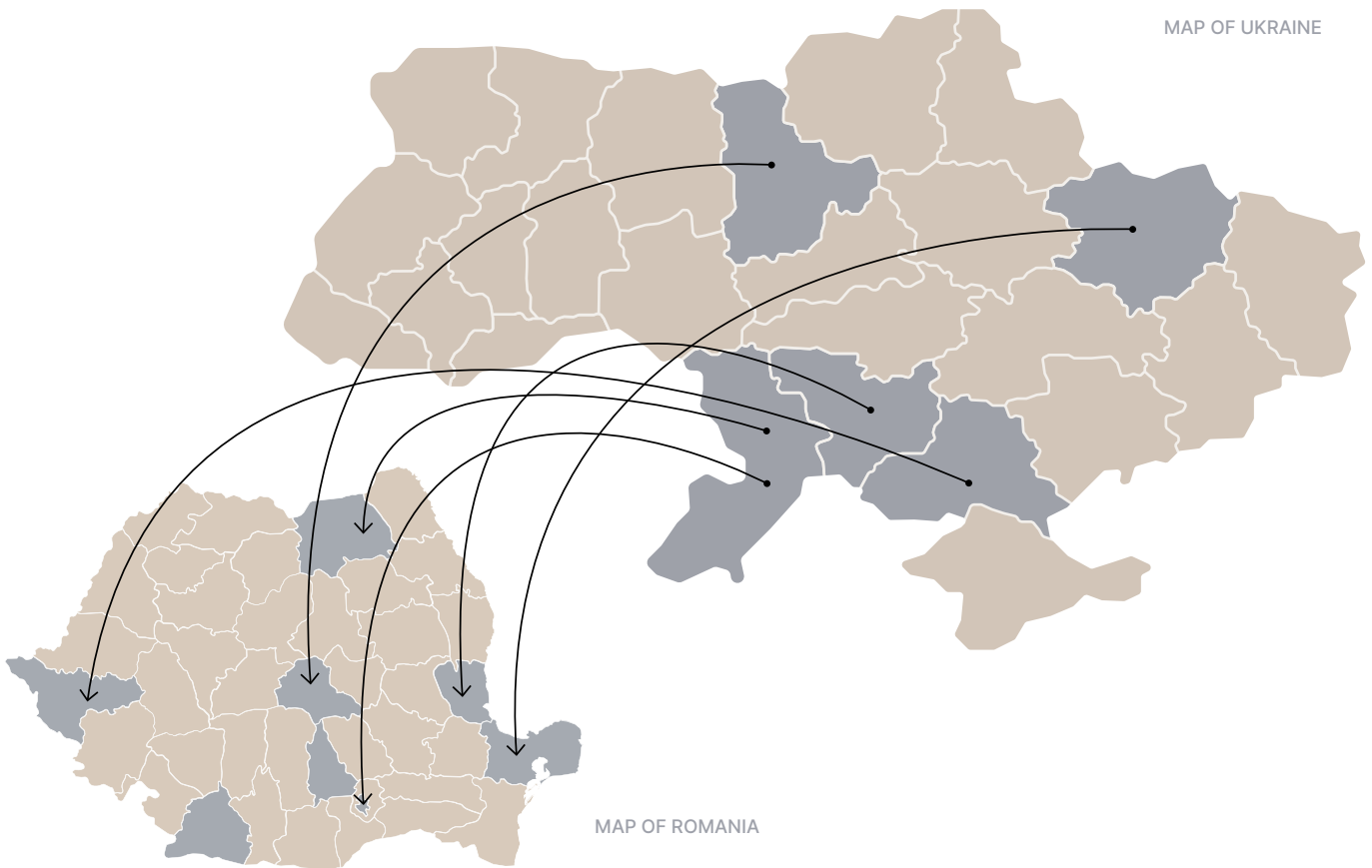
2503
women



559
men

THIS RATIO IS EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT MEN AND YOUNG ADULTS WERE FORCED TO STAY IN THEIR COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THE MARTIAL LAW ENFORCED, WHILE WOMEN WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE ALONGSIDE THEIR CHILDREN.

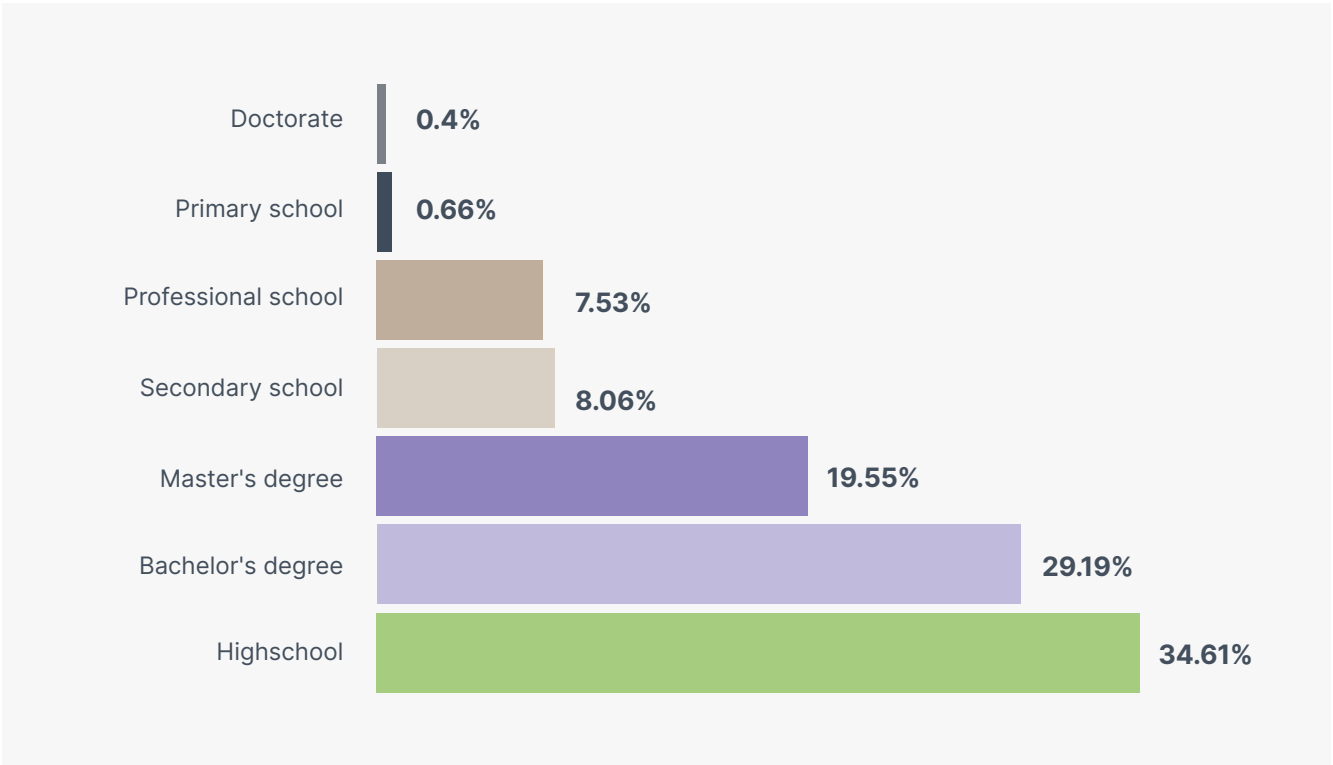
When analysing the place of origin, it can be noticed that the refugee population assisted by eLiberare comes from the Eastern and South-Eastern parts of Ukraine. The top 5 oblasts of origin are **Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kiev, Kharkiv and Kherson.**





Education

Regarding education, it can be noticed that they have a high level of education, with over **63% having at least a higher education degree**, and approximately **24% having completed high school**. The main problem they face is that their qualifications are from a different educational system, their experiences in the job market in their country of origin are different, and the lack of direct or indirect contact with employers makes it difficult for them to access the job market. Additionally, for women in particular, it is much harder to find a job if they have elderly dependents, disabilities, or young children to care for.



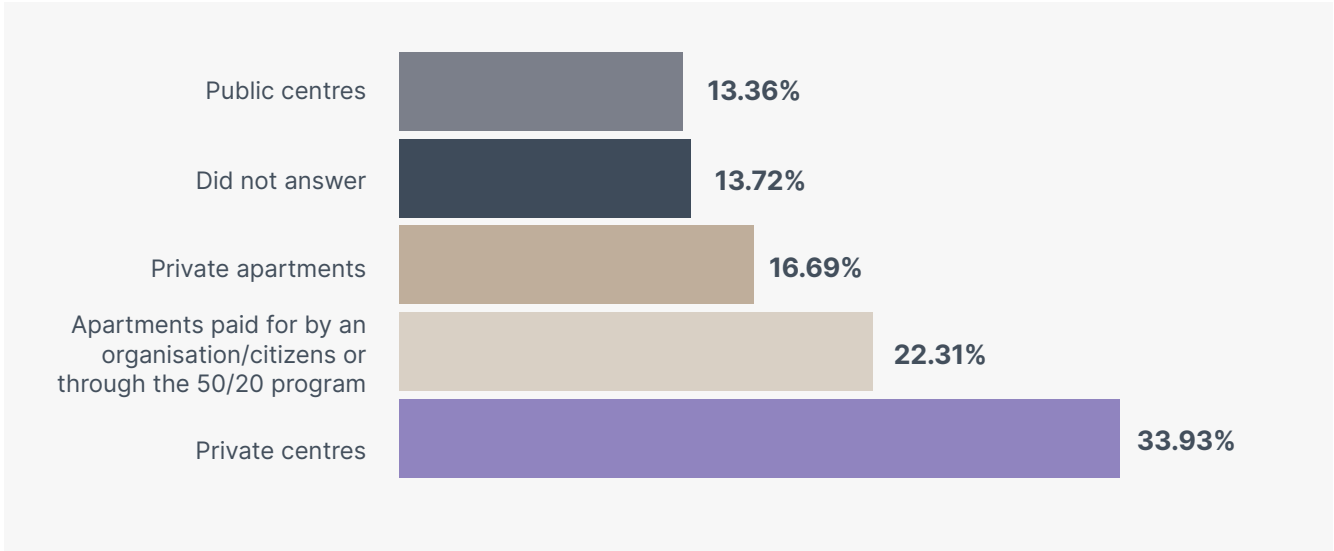
Accommodation

In terms of **accommodation**, Ukrainians live in both public and private centres. Refugees are accommodated in public or private centres, in private apartments paid for through the 50/20 Program, or by an organisation or even personally.

eLiberare field teams have noticed that the most vulnerable people can be found in the public refugee centres, namely a large community of Roma people, people with disabilities, elderly people or people with no resources.

We believe that the high number of people staying in public centres is due to the fact that they have more compound vulnerabilities, no other connections in Romania and they suffer discrimination when searching for private accommodation.

As months passed by with nothing but an increase of the hostilities on Ukrainian territory, more people entered Romania. A shift on the population's profile had been observed. If in the first four months of the crisis, a large number of people coming from Ukraine were just transiting to other European countries, later on more Ukrainians remained in Romania.



Vulnerabilities

As the needs of refugees across Europe shifted, addressing the factors that make them vulnerable is crucial to their protection. Through the Kompass Model, eLiberare evaluates the person or the family and establishes the level of risk. By examining the initial evaluations, several most-frequent vulnerabilities have been identified:



NO SAFE CONTACTS OUTSIDE UKRAINE

The most encountered risk that was identified is the lack of relatives or acquaintances in Romania or in the countries of destination. **54% of the beneficiaries do not know anyone at their final destinations.** Not having a safe contact or a circle of support while travelling or trying to flee to another country makes people prone to accepting help from strangers, which can pose a high risk. Experience in the field has shown that Ukrainians have a tendency to trust more Ukrainian/Russian speaking people because they speak a language they know. In one particular case, eLiberare identified a Russian-speaking man who was walking around a refugee centre posing questions to refugees, until the Police came and interrogated him, after which he was never to be seen again in that area. This situation revealed to us that Ukrainian communities in Romania can be easily accessed by people who can be dangerous, but who might know the language.



LOW LEVEL OF ENGLISH/LOCAL LANGUAGE

63% of the respondents have an extremely low level of English/local language (Romanian) or do not know it at all. The main languages spoken are Russian and Ukrainian. Trying to survive in a country where they do not understand the language is very challenging. Moreover, Ukrainians have been several times in a position where they needed to sign documents in a language they did not understand (e.g. accommodation contracts, labour contracts and other types of documents). eLiberare has identified, through its work, many cases of abusive or unclear clauses in contracts, such as abusive termination of contract, interdiction to take paid medical leave in the first 6 months of the contract, and so on. The language barrier is also important when it comes to requesting help in case of dangerous situations. Unfortunately, not many Romanian institutions have professionals who are fluent in Ukrainian or Russian. One situation in particular is the National Agency Against Human Trafficking's Tolverde, which does not have an option for Ukrainian refugees to ask questions or raise concerns. In addition to that, a low level of education has been identified among people dependent on social services. People accommodated in public centres have another level of risk which leads to a higher level of vulnerability.



CHILDREN/SENIORS IN CARE

Other existing characteristics that influence the situation faced by refugees are the children or seniors in care. **55% of the adult women carry the weight of taking care of their young children and/or of their elderly relatives.** In some cases, mothers have in their care children that are not their own but children of close relatives, friends or even of people they met along the way. Elders are also extremely vulnerable and in need of care, especially as a result of having faced rough conditions while travelling. This poses many challenges for women who are travelling or for those who are trying to enter the Romanian labour market. Without proper support for children and for the elderly while they are at work, the alternative is to leave them alone at home. In addition, we discovered that 3% of the female beneficiaries are pregnant and/or nursing moms who have limited resources and options when it comes to providing basic needs for themselves and for those who are in their care.



LACK OF SAVINGS

Economic vulnerabilities also affect a large number of refugees who did not have resources prior to war. **16% of the respondents admit they don't have savings and find themselves dependent exclusively on international or national aid and support.** This is a vulnerability that is often linked with many risks including sexual exploitation and labour exploitation. In lack of options, people tend to accept offers that are too good to be true and enter potentially dangerous situations.

→ HEALTHCARE ISSUES

In eLiberare's field work, **14% of people who have been screened for vulnerabilities also experience healthcare problems.** In some of the cases, they requested assistance to obtain paid medical leave from their job, which in Romania cannot happen in the first 6 months of the job. However, pre-existing diseases and other medical preconditions must be taken into account when addressing protection. Traffickers will profit from each vulnerability a person has and use it to blackmail the victim.

→ PRIOR EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Among those most vulnerable, eLiberare found **women who had previously been victims of violence and abuse, and who were followed by their abusers here in Romania.** Correlating this with a faulty vetting-system for people who offer accommodation, transportation and even employment, we assess this vulnerability to be high and to expose victims to further re-traumatization or even violence. One particular case in this respect was a woman who called our helpline because she was being harassed by her ex-husband and followed throughout the city by the man and his friends. She was referred to specialised GBV services in the particular city where she was located.

→ TRAVELLING ALONE AT A YOUNG AGE

Unaccompanied children, including the separated and those from Ukrainian institutions, are not always referred to the national child protection authorities for follow-up and protection, in eLiberare's experience; sometimes children are not registered anywhere until they sign up for temporary protection. Children might travel unaccompanied, or accompanied by relatives, neighbours, friends of their parents and soon.

The eLiberare team identified **155 young adults who travelled to Romania by themselves, without relatives and without other safe contacts in our country.** Among these young adults, tentative cases of trafficking were identified, where traffickers who had been convicted in Romania offered housing and accommodation to refugees. Another vulnerable category identified by eLiberare were young adults without family support. The team met with young adults who were travelling alone: young women whose husbands or fathers stayed behind in Ukraine. **With ages between 18 and 21, we encountered young people with no experience of living independently, forced to figure out things by themselves.**



Risk profiles

In the first year since the war in Ukraine started, eLiberare managed 10 cases. Below we will present some of the cases identified and some of the concerns that arise by analysing these cases.

SEX TRAFFICKING

As international Reports state³, the war in Ukraine and the massive migration of Ukrainian women to other countries caused a spike in searches for Ukrainian women on adult content websites. In our direct work, our team has seen several tentative cases of recruitment, which, due to our intervention in the field, were reported and closely monitored.

THE ONLINE RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT

One case encountered involved an 18 years old girl travelling by herself in Romania. Before the war, she was living with her father in one city in Ukraine. When the war started, her father arranged for her to leave their hometown and go to Zaporozhye where her mother lived. In April she left and went through a dangerous route passing through 25 checkpoints. Once there, her father made further arrangements to travel to a city in the South part of Romania. There she was accommodated in a hotel room, a location arranged as a refugee centre, but after four nights she was told that she could no longer stay there. As she started looking for options, she joined several Facebook groups where she met a woman offering to come in 10 minutes at her location and discuss it. The woman came accompanied by others and made her an offer, but the young girl refused and went back to her room. Things got worse as these individuals started following her around Constanta. The girl didn't feel safe anymore so she took the first train to Suceava. After this experience all she wanted was to go back to Ukraine, but welcomed by volunteers at the Siret border, she shared what happened to her and was guided to give the Police an official complaint. Her story continued in Suceava where she found safe accommodation and guidance. Currently she is doing online courses at the Faculty of Medicine, specialising in Nursing in Zaporozhye. At the same time she is in the preparatory year at the Faculty of Medicine in Suceava. She lives with a friend from Kharkiv, in an apartment through the 50/20 program and volunteers at the Youth Center where she teaches English.

³ OSCE and Thomos Reuters

THE FAKE JOB RECRUITMENT

One case eLiberare has dealt with describes an incident involving a young woman who was recruited as an assistant by a middle-aged couple who advertised their offer of employment and accommodation for refugees on social media platforms.

The woman worked for almost two months without a contract. During this time, she experienced several instances of inappropriate behaviour by the male employer. After she disclosed the situation, she received specialised assistance from eLiberare. Our investigation eventually led to the discovery that the couple who offered her the job was actually a couple convicted for human trafficking in Romania, and had received suspended sentences; now, they presumably started to use the same recruitment method.

This case study underscores the importance of vetting systems and also of safety measures when seeking employment and accommodation from strangers online.

THE LOVERBOY RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT

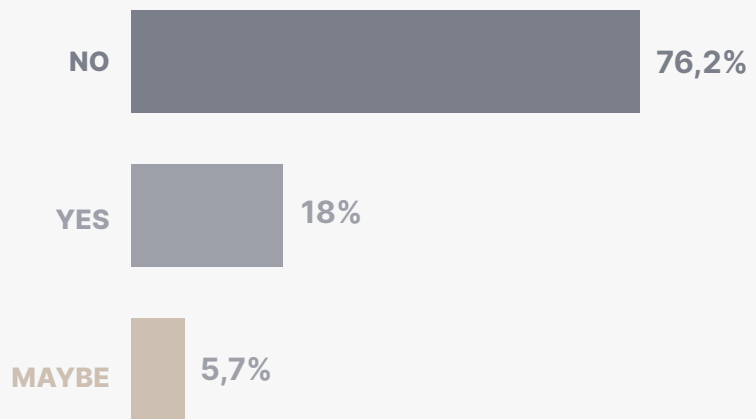
Another case which came to our attention was of a woman who, while searching for accommodation, was approached by a man who took her to see a location which looked similar to a brothel. When she refused the accommodation, the man tried to manipulate her by posing as a man who fell in love with the woman. She kept refusing him and eventually he sent another woman, his collaborator, to try to persuade the refugee woman to accept staying there with her daughters. She found this to be very suspicious and decided to report the man.

During the first year of the war, eLiberare also closely monitored the online Social Media groups, where we often identified ads or online events who portrayed Ukrainian women offering sexual services. We have submitted 26 reports about social media posts.

LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Concerns remain high around labour exploitation, especially in Romania. 22% of the beneficiaries want to get a job while staying in Romania.

RESPONDENTS WHO WANT TO GET A JOB IN ROMANIA



From eLiberare's findings, people in search of a job usually have a medium level of vulnerability. Their profiles are characterised by a low level of education, lack of savings and inability to speak English or Romanian. These elements put them at risk especially due to the limited job options.

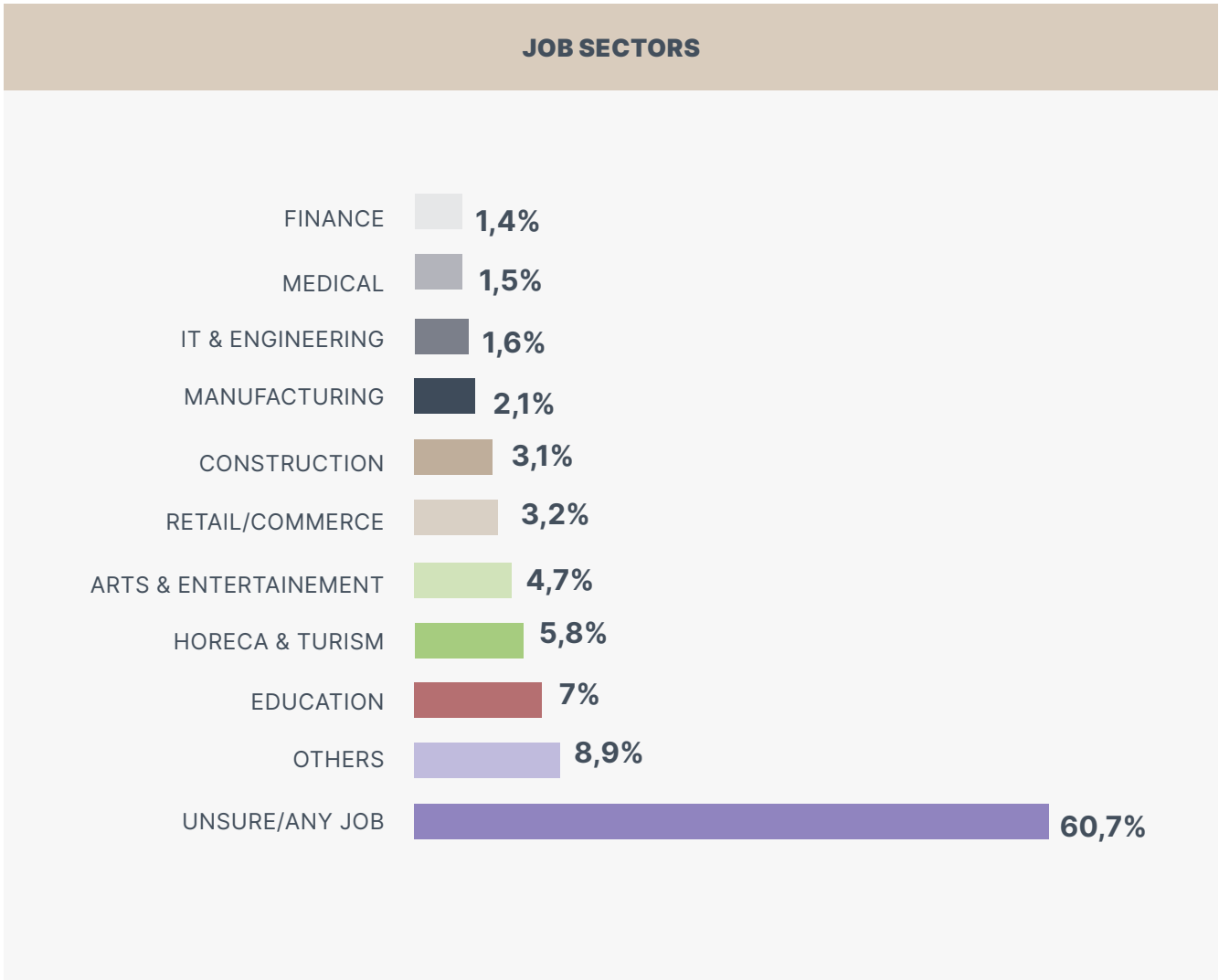
60%

of the respondents are either unsure or open to accepting employment

19%

are searching for a job in sectors such as hotels, restaurants, manufacturing or construction, where there are a high number of victims

While the 50/20 Governmental Program, which offered accommodation and food to refugees, is diminishing, we expect that more people will start looking for jobs out of need.



Moving to Romania was not a choice for many Ukrainians, but it was the best option they had to escape the brutal war that had started in their country.

Unprepared and without a plan, many of them are now trying to build a life in Romania, despite facing ongoing trauma, cultural differences, and language barriers.

Chapter III



Recommendations

Based on our continuous and firsthand work with refugees, as well as our advocacy work at local, national and international level, we elaborated a set of recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS



1

Coordination

Ensuring a multidisciplinary approach that includes all relevant stakeholders: governmental, national, county and local institutions, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and vetted individuals serving as volunteers. All anti-trafficking responses should be done by specialized, certified actors and properly resourced.



2

Clear Referral Pathways

Ensure clear policies and procedures for all relevant actors on how to implement the National Referral and Identification Mechanism. Assist with capacity building sessions the multidisciplinary teams at the level of each county to assist with proper implementation.



3

Standardized Vetting Systems

Establish standardized vetting procedures for all entities and individuals offering housing, transport, employment, education, or childcare opportunities to Ukrainian refugees. The vetting system should include, by default, background checks and searches in the National Register for Sexual Offenders.



4

Addressing Demand

Address demand for trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation of Ukrainian women refugees by complying with international obligations, such as Palermo Protocol article 9.5, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions.



5 Easily Available Reporting Tools

Put in place a toll-free, 24/7 staffed anti-trafficking helpline with operators and interpreters available for Ukrainian refugees who are trained on the topics of human trafficking, trauma informed interventions and National Referral and Identification Mechanism procedures. Offer a texting alternative from those unable to make phone calls in safe conditions.



6 Best interest of the child

Ensure that the best interest of the child is the main principle applied in all dealings, interactions and decisions involving Ukrainian refugee children.



7 Inclusion and integration

Nihil de nobis sine nobis - include the voices of refugees in all decisions, assistance provisions and outreach in order to ensure appropriate, culturally sensitive measures are put in place, for long term success and resilience of the interventions. This should be done in parallel with continuing to build the capacity of host communities.



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