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NGOS INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Abstract:

This article addresses the subject of human rights and particularly the extremely sensitive one of human trafficking, presenting some historical references on the matter and the current state of affairs, as well as the involvement of Romanian NGOs in the fight against this phenomenon. The economic drivers of migrant exploitation and human trafficking are also investigated. This paper highlights some measures and actions taken by the authorities and NGOs in Romania in their effort to raise awareness of the phenomenon, to prevent it and to counterattack these forms of human rights violations, as well as to help people who are actual or potential victims of human trafficking to get out of the respective situations and reintegrate into society.

Key words: NGOs; human trafficking; victim; human rights; economic drivers; government, traffickers

1. Introduction

The subject of human rights is always a good starting point in a debate, especially when it comes face to face to a such a strong issue of nowadays, the human trafficking phenomenon, in a free society, where human rights are overall known and supposed to be naturally applied. But the reality is that the human trafficking co-exist and develop in our society, near us, with all the laws and protection, information and technology at our hands.

This article intends to have a look at the history of human rights, how they developed through decades, pointing main events that marked each little step to our days human rights that we all benefit from.

There are some points of analysis of the current state of affairs of the phenomenon of human trafficking in the world, Europe and our country, Romania, and the main organizations that deal with this issue.

The economic drivers of migrant exploitation and human trafficking play an important role on this matter, and they are analyzed from this point of view.

NGOs are directly involved in the fight against human trafficking mainly in prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims, counseling, reintegration into society, and also training and mentoring for the specialists involved in this process.

There are NGOs mentioned and details offered for their main activities and specific actions taken together with the authorities in order to prevent and fight the human trafficking.



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The conclusions are meant to raise question marks and to determine a more intensive involvement of authorities supported by civil society into actions with strong results from the fight against human trafficking, such a terrible subject that occur in our society.

2. Human rights. Human trafficking. Main historical data and current state of affairs

2.1 Human rights, main historical data

“Fundamental human rights have their roots in antiquity, transit through the Middle Ages, develop through the important contribution of the juridical phenomenon [1] present in the 17th-18th centuries, so that in the period after the Second World War they obtain a complete layout.”[2]

Highlighting the oldest traces of human rights is not possible, but they can be deduced from the study of the conception of the human world in general, and especially in the human-divinity relationship and the power-human relationship. The latter were also the basis for the establishment of moral requirements, that is, of human attitudes that establish good (or bad) behavior and that impose rules of conduct for society.

In the Declaration of Independence of the United States (July 4, 1776), it was proclaimed that: "All men were created equal; they were endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are established by the people to guarantee these rights and their rightful power emanates from the consent of the governors"[3]. The Constitution of the United States (of September 17, 1787), ratified in 1890 by all the states of the Union, added ten amendments. The freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, the right of association, the right of the people to own and bear arms, the inviolability of the person, of the domicile, of correspondence and others were included [4].

The declarations and constitutions that followed the French revolution of 1789, called The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, adopted by the Constituent Assembly between the 20th and 26th of August 1789, proclaimed, among other things, that: "recognizes and declares, in the presence and under the auspices of the Supreme Being, the following rights of man and citizen..."; "People are born and remain free and equal in rights"; "The purpose of any political association is to preserve the natural and inalienable rights of man. These rights are freedom, property, security and resistance to oppression" [5]. This Declaration stated important rights: freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, the right of association, the right of the people to own and bear arms, the inviolability of the person, of the domicile, of correspondence and others. This document was the first declaration addressed to all citizens, to all people, regardless of which nations they belonged to, regardless of the social class they belonged to.

Beginning with the end of the First World War, the political map of the world had changed radically, a fact that also contributed to essential changes from a demographic point of view. Important majority groups became minorities and vice versa. Thus, the need for an international protection of human rights had arisen, but not only with regard to national minorities, but also other rights.

Under the auspices of the League of Nations, several conventions were drawn up, such as the one from 1926 against slavery, conventions on the suppression of trafficking in women and children, for the fight against drugs, or the system of international protection of countries under mandate, etc. The League of Nations, mainly concerned with maintaining peace, practically ceased to exist soon after the start of the Second World War, in 1939, although, formally, it was definitively dissolved on July 31, 1947.

The interwar period followed, characterized by numerous acts of cruelty caused by totalitarian, anti-democratic forces, which provoked the indignation of international public opinion materialized through a series of statements such as the statement made by American President F. D.



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Roosevelt on the occasion of the message to the nation on January 26, 1941, in which four freedoms are highlighted: freedom of speech and expression, religious freedom, the right to be sheltered from material needs and the right to the guarantee of a life freed from fear. In this order of ideas, the Atlantic Charter was later adopted, elaborated on August 14, 1941 by President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill, in which, apart from these four rights and freedoms, the requirement to ensure economic progress and social security was also added.

On the 26th of June 1945 was signed the Charter of the United Nations Organization, which entered into force on October 24, 1945, with the submission of the instruments of ratification by the permanent members of the Security Council and by the majority of the signatory states. The United Nations is the successor to the League of Nations that had 60 member states, The UNO includes 193 member states that participates in addressing and identifying solutions for global problems in a unique international framework of dialogue and cooperation. The main bodies of the UN are: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the International Court of Justice.

In Europe, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees the rights of European citizens and it defines the fundamental rights that the EU institutions and bodies are obliged to respect. The Charter also applies to national governments when they implement European legislation.

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Related to Human rights and the interdiction of human trafficking, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is stating through its 5th article intitled “Prohibition of slavery and forced labor” paragraph 3 that “Human trafficking is prohibited” [7]

Romania’s Constitution is directly related with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with the international pacts and treaties whereas Romania is an active party, as stated within the 20th Article of the document, the 1st and 2nd paragraph” called International treaties on human rights. [6]

Within the 49th Article of the Romanian Constitution, called Protection of children and young people within paragraph 3, is stated “The right of minors of protection against any sort of exploitation” and “Exploitation of minors, their use in activities that would harm their health, morals or endanger their life or normal development are prohibited.” [6]

2.2 Human trafficking current state of affaires

The definition of Human trafficking according to the [United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol](#) is "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation". [8]

In 2010 the UN developed the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, that covers 148 countries and gathers information from the period 2016-2019. UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) has been gathering data about human trafficking for more than 10 years and has the capability to analyze and to make pertinent observations about the trends in this area for several indicators. Some conclusions of the 2020 UNODC [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) are:

- total number of victims detected 2003-2019: 350.000, 50.000 in 2018
- suspected, prosecuted or convicted persons:200.000
- in 2018 the shares of detected victims of trafficking by age and sex is 46% women, 20% men, and children, 19% girls, 15% boys.
- most frequently the victims are becoming the target of traffic



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exploitation when they are vulnerable: 51% in economic need, 20% are children with a difunctional family, 13% has emotional attachment to the trafficker, 10% mental and neurological disorder, 10% immigration status, 9% child deprived from parental care.

- the form of exploitation among the detected victims is in 50% of the cases sexual exploitation, 38% of the cases forced labor, 6% of the cases criminal activity and the rest of the cases: begging, forced marriages, baby selling, removal of organs and other and unknown.

- COVID 19 economic crisis most likely contributed to an increased the number of traffic victims. “Millions of women, children and men worldwide are out of work, out of school and without social support in the continuing COVID-19 crisis, leaving them at greater risk of human trafficking. We need targeted action to stop criminal traffickers from taking advantage of the pandemic to exploit the vulnerable,” said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly. [9]

In Europe, according to the 2020 REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL -Third progress report on combating human trafficking (2020) developed under the article 20 of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking of persons and the protection of its victims,

- the fight against Human trafficking, is mentioned as a top priority within the new strategy for a secured Union. In the same time, it is mentioned that Human trafficking is an extremely profitable criminal offence for the traffickers, reaching 29.4 billion euros profit per year for the entire UE. In the meantime, the cost of the authorities and countries in order to counterattack, to protect, to warn and to prevent the members of the UE society about this phenomenon raises up to 2.7 billion euros per year. The human rights of men and women, children, girls and boys are badly violated by these criminals. In spite of all these efforts from the authorities and civil society, the human trafficking phenomenon is persisting and growing.

- The COVID-19 pandemic represented an opportunity for the traffickers to develop new methods of reaching for their victims, using internet publicity and private places to develop their networks. In the same time the after pandemic economic crisis boosted the number of vulnerable persons that are targeted by these criminals.

- During 2017-2018 the official number of the victims of human trafficking in UE was 14145, bigger than the previous period, 2015-2016, 13461 victims.

- Top 5 countries in Europe providing human traffic victims are Romania, Hungary, France, Netherlands and Bulgaria, and sexual exploitation remains the top purpose of human trafficking in UE and 75% of the victims were women and girls. [10]

In Romania, ANITP is the National Agency Against Human Trafficking, a structure of Ministry of Internal Affairs, that evaluates and monitors at national level the activity in the field of fight against the trafficking of human beings, developed by public institutions and NGOs.

According to the report of the Romanian National Agency Against Human Trafficking, published on the official web page of the European Commission

- In 2020, in Romania there were 596 victims of human trafficking, 275 trafficked and exploited abroad and 321, more than half of them, exploited in Romania. This can be explained by the restrictions imposed during the pandemic caused by COVID-19 that occurred during this period.



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Year of reference	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total registered victims	1154	1048	1041	896	757	880	756	662	497	698	596
Victims trafficked and exploited abroad	849	752	544	552	418	492	321	261	253	314	275
Victims trafficked and exploited in country-of-origin Romania	305	296	497	344	339	388	435	401	244	384	321

Table 1. (Distribution of human trafficking victims in Romania during 2010-2020 abroad and within Romania country of origin)

• During the period 2010-2020 the official total number of human trafficking victims decreased with almost 50%, and had a downward trend, except for 2015 and 2019 when the number of victims easily increased. [10],

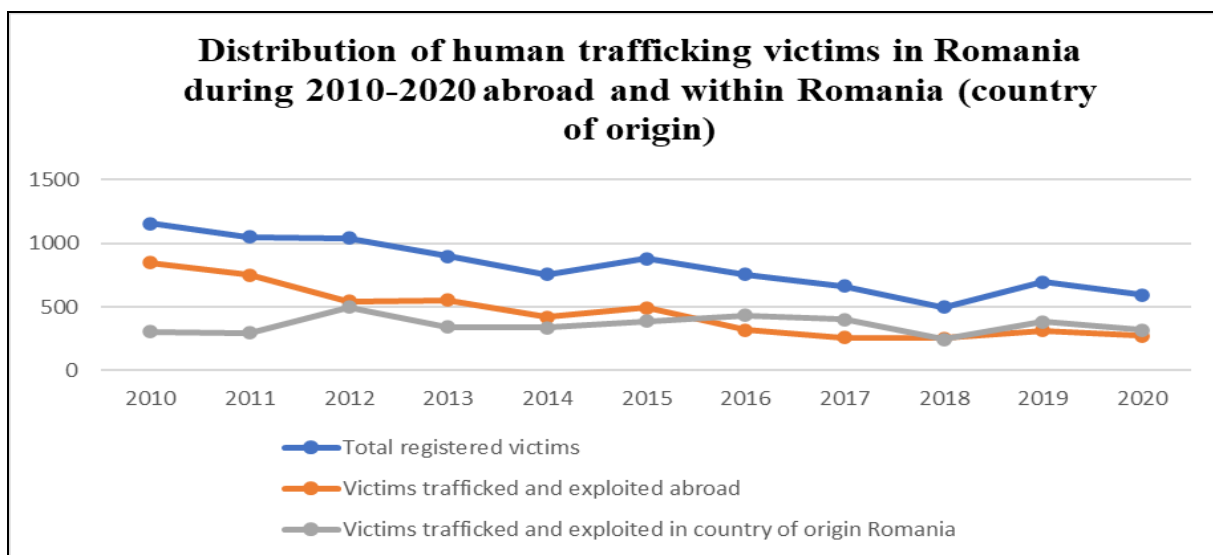


Fig.1 (Distribution of human trafficking victims in Romania during 2010-2020 abroad and within Romania country of origin)

• Regarding gender and age, the report underlines that in 2020, in Romania 463 of the victims are female 133 are male, females being more vulnerable targets of human trafficking.

• An important factor is education, 68,5% of them being out of school or with only secondary education, 29,8% having higher school and only 1,5% higher education. The lack of education and the lack of a real perspective on the labor market is pushing the victims into the hands of the traffickers.



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- The recruitment type is the direct one in more than 80% of the cases, but one can remark that the Internet recruitment was used in 16% of the cases, due to restricted measures applied by authorities during the pandemic. This means that the traffickers adapt to the new world arrangements and are able to find new ways and opportunities in order to attract more victims into their trap.

- The offer of the traffickers during the recruitment stage is prostitution in 27.1% of the cases, 23.7% job offers abroad.

But actually, the “job offers” end with the exploitation of the victims, in 2020, 75% of them being the victims of sexual exploitation, 16% of forced labor, 12% of begging and attempt and other forms, 13% of the victims were used for several human traffic purposes.

- The main destinations of the victims were Romania, UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland and Belgium, but there were also other destinations mentioned in the report.[11]

3.The economic drivers of migrant exploitation and human trafficking

Policy makers from national governments, international organizations and worldwide non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have significantly expanded their efforts to tackle human trafficking while raising public awareness regarding this concerning problem. According to Fioretini and Peltzman [12] or Freeman [13], the economic literature regarding illicit activities and organized crime has been missing. More specifically, the size and profitability of the human trafficking market together with the migrant exploitation has been ignored. Since only a small amount of information related to this subject is known, the process of gathering reliable data becomes significantly harder.

Mahmoud and Trebesch [14] claimed that the problems of trafficking and exploitation arise when individuals are dissatisfied with their standards of living from a nation. However, most of them are unable to legally migrate to another country due to borders being closed. This frustration created a significant increase in illegal migration and smuggling networks took advantage of people’s aspirations to work overseas. As a result, migration gradually became a multibillion-dollar industry in which massive profits are recorded. Furthermore, businesses in this industry are attractive to criminals as they are ready to use physical violence in order to keep control during the smuggling process.

People are mainly selected from poverty-stricken regions of the world as they are more vulnerable and compliant. These migrants hope to find better opportunities overseas and are often willing to accept cruel treatments in order to achieve their purpose [15]. Therefore, emigration is seen as one of the most effective methods to boost their standard of living and obtain more benefits such as increased wages. Clemens et al. [16] suggest that the demand for legal migration has significantly increased. Also, in 2005, World Bank emphasized that large potential income rises can be achieved by relocating to richer countries. The majority of the countries providing middle to large salaries have already met their demand for workers. As a result, the supply of workplaces for migrants became very limited. However, there is constant demand for lowly-priced labor and prostitutes regardless of the maturity of a country.

Due to the above-mentioned circumstances, an illegal industry that provides services such as the procurement of illegal work abroad and border crossing has developed. These services often involve its worst forms similar to human trafficking and substantial monetary compensation. Similar patterns can also be recognized in other illegal industries. The trading of arms and drugs represents just one of the examples. As a result, the organizational structure of businesses encompassed withing the human trafficking and exploitation spectrum provide similar services as a legal one (Mahmoud and Trebesch, 2009).



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4. NGOs in Romania involved in the fight for human rights and against human trafficking

NGOs have been an important actor within the fight for human rights, starting from 1927, with the International Federation of Human Rights based in Paris. They first proposed a declaration of human rights right before the World War II emerged. After 1960, the human rights movement expanded and developed networks all over the world. [17]

But even earlier, in 1839, The Anti-slavery Society was born, and became later Anti-Slavery International, the International NGO with an activity of over 180 years in fighting all forms of slavery, including modern slavery, including human trafficking.[18]

In Romania there are several NGO's involved in the fight against human trafficking, that cooperate with the authorities in order to prevent, help and protect the victims, but also are involved in activities that have the objective to stop the development of the trafficking networks in Romania.

The most representative NGOs in Romania in this area are also listed on the official webpage of the European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs department.

- ProTECT is a coalition between 21 of the most important NGOs involved in prevention, protection, victim assistance, criminal and civil procedures, lobbying and advocacy for initiatives with a greater impact in the fight against human trafficking. The coalition was created as a reaction to the US State Department, annual TIP Report. This report analyses the fulfillment of minimum requirements in the 3 main areas: prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims and punishment of traffickers. This coalition has as actual results along the years of each NGOs activity, a total of 1.000.000 persons informed and prevented, more than 6300 assisted victims and over 56.000 trained specialists. The work of this experts is a continuous one, on several fronts, each and every one being extremely important on the overall results of achieving the goals of the fight against human trafficking. [19]

One of the areas of expertise of the coalition is within criminal and civil procedures, being involved in the process of change and development of the actual laws and regulations regarding the human trafficking, one example being the legislative proposal for completing and amending Law no. 286/2009 on The Criminal Code, registered at the Chamber of Deputies under no. PL-x. no. 457/2022. The legislative proposal has several points, one of them regards the age of consensual sexual relations The proposal is the age of 16 years, otherwise this act being considered rape and strongly motivated by the poor judgment full knowledge of all implications that people under 16 years have. [20]

- Terre des hommes is an international Swiss association that has been activating in Romania since 1992, to support the child protection system and to contribute to the reform of the social assistance system. It also encourages children to get involved in the community they are part of through various projects carried out year after year. There are three areas of action of the organization

- Investment in education, social services, infrastructure for children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Romania with their projects called ACTIV, JOBOTECA, SAFE SPORTS ALLIES
- Involvement in supporting children affected by the phenomenon of migration in cases where parents or children alone are exposed to the dangers represented by this phenomenon. Since 2005 Terre de hommes joined the initiative of other NGOs in their fight against human trafficking, especially children, in Eastern Europe countries. Project developed in 2020 in this area: CASTLE
- Providing support for children and young people who are in conflict with the law, offering counselling and specialized support in order to bring mental balance to these future adults into society. Projects: CLEAR RIGHTS, SOLIDARITY FABLAB TARGU OCNA.[21]



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- PRO Refugiu is another NGO with specific activities conducted by specialists in law and social services:

-legal service offered to human trafficking victims and also to other vulnerable categories such as refugees and asylum seekers. -psycho social services, mainly advisory, counselling, analyze and evaluation of different problems of the beneficiaries, different informational sessions regarding labor market and ways of obtaining an appropriate job, different educational and recreational activities for the beneficiaries, and also material support for the vulnerable people. The programs and project are developed with funding from different European programs.

-some relevant publications of PRO Refugiu: “Toolkit for the economic sectors to combat human trafficking” 4th of July 2019; “ [Human trafficking and the economic/business sectors susceptible to be involved in the demand and supply chain of products and services resulting from victims’ exploitation](#)”, March 2019; “Action plan for developing victim-centered and trauma-informed criminal justice systems” April 2021” [22]

- Reaching out Romania is an NGO that has been a real support for human trafficking victims since 1999, the organization being involved in projects financed by USA I’D, UNICEF, German Government and Swiss government. The results are the assisting of over 750 victims that came in contact with the organization directly from the Romanian Police Departments, Child Protection Department and NGOs from destination countries of the victims. The novelty of Reaching OUT Romania’s projects is that they try to find concrete ways of reintegration of the victims in society, step by step, giving them the opportunity to continue their lives, in the Romanian society. [23]

5. Some concrete measures and actions taken by authorities and NGOs in Romania against human trafficking and ways of reintegration into society for the victims and possible victims of the phenomenon.

According to the U.S. Department of State’s 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report, Romania represented by its government “does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking,” and remained for the second year on the Tier2 Watch List

The number of cases opened by prosecutors decreased in 2020 compared with the previous year and also the number of victims from human traffic increased in 2020. The US department also noted that there isn’t enough government funding for the assistance and protection services It was obvious that more efforts have to be done in order to modify the legislation accordingly and to develop a real strong national strategy to counterattack and to prevent human trafficking.[24]

- On the 31st of October 2018 has been approved the National Strategy against Trafficking in persons and the Action Plan for the periods 2018-20220 and 2021-2202. He goals of these Action Plans are to reduce the impact and dimension of human trafficking by direct actions in several areas:“ 1. Prevention of trafficking in persons; 2. Protection, assistance and social reintegration of trafficking victims; 3. Combating trafficking in persons; 4. Monitoring and evaluation of trafficking in persons and policy implementation” [25]

- The legal measures are a main axis in the fight against human trafficking because it offers a legal and adapted frame for the authorities to take real measures against the networks of traffickers, and to use the necessary and available means in order to recover the prejudices of human trafficking activities and to punish the offenders.

-One example is a new Criminal Code from 2014 with changes in legislation regarding human trafficking, On the same Criminal Code, in 2020-2021 with the help of the Government and the sustained work of specialists from several NGOs, there were made important amendments



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regarding the punishments of the criminals, and also by detailing and improving the procedures about minor abuse.

-Another example is a project from 2017 “Trafficking in persons - a victim-centered approach” that led to concrete procedures and tools for the practitioners in law to use in their direct work with the victims of human trafficking in order to have better results.

- There were several prevention an information national and local campaigns, with targeted messages for different categories of people, using media promotion, video clips and audio spots, promotion materials to theatre performances, online campaigns. These projects were conducted in cooperation with NGOs.

- ✓ Beware of "perfect" opportunities with "perfect" jobs is a campaign for prevention human trafficking for forced labor, in partnership with CAITAS Bucharest, APARE, and AID Rom, NGOS involved in the fight against human trafficking in Romania.
- ✓ “The two faces man” is a media promoted national campaign conducted in order to prevent sexual exploitation of women.
- ✓ Campaigns dedicated to child abuse and human traffic protection “Use the internet carefully. Trafficking in minors has a hidden face” and “When begging starts, childhood ends” in partnership with Telefonul Copilului Association, ANIT, Save the Children Italy and Institute for Crime Research and Prevention within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police.
- ✓ Sustained promotion for the Helpline number 0800800678 dedicated to the victims of human traffic in order for them to have a direct the possibility to ask for help.

- It has been created a Monitory Commission that has the role to monitor all the activities stated in the Action Plan mentioned above, and it consists of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Internal Affairs, Education, Health, Labor and Social Protection, Youth an Sport and Directorate of Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism. This Commission makes sure that all the objectives of each institution involved in the Action Plan are reached and takes into consideration to apply the necessary measures in order for he objectives to be fulfilled.[11]

- Education courses for young people and training courses for officials and public institutions were implemented and are being implemented by IRDO (Romanian Institute for Human Rights) in collaboration with ANITP [26]

- Therefore in 2021 and 2022 it is imperative that these figures show a real progress of the authorities and entities involved in the fight against human trafficking in Romania.

- In 2021 there are few numbers published regarding the number of trafficked persons, and there seems to be a decreasing trend 2021 versus 2020, with 15%, 509 victims of human trafficking declared in 2021 versus 596 in 2020. In 2021 the over 80% of the victims are female, and over 50% of the victims are minors. In over 70% of the cases, the recruitment was carried out by very close people, and social networks and the Internet played an important role in the recruitment for 21% of the victims. What constitutes an important element is the fact that 89% of the victims were injured parties in criminal proceedings against human traffickers. This fact constitutes a solid basis into taking the necessary legal steps by the judiciary, to counterattack and suppress the phenomenon of human trafficking in Romania and Europe. [27]

- One of the conclusions of the US Report regarding human trafficking in Romania in 2020 was the fact that the Romanian Government did not allocate the necessary funds in order to shelter, monitor, council, integration into society the victims of human trafficking. This is the reason why there is this partnership of the authorities with NGOs, because the NGOs are actually the ones that assure most of the necessary actions after the declaration of the victim and the enrollment in the reintegration program. NGOs benefit from different funds that they obtain for the projects and programs they apply with. The funds come from the United States of America, the European Union,



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Switzerland, United Kingdom, Sweden and other dedicated programs that sustain the fight against human trafficking. [9]

- As of 2022, the Romanian Government has reduced the number of trafficked victims and was upgraded from Tier 2 – Watchlist to Tier 2. More specifically, Tier 2 is received by countries whose governments are making serious efforts to abide by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s (TVPA) minimum standards. These efforts consist of investigating additional trafficking cases, prosecuting and convicting more traffickers and implementing a pilot program in which the NGOs will receive funding from the state to assist the trafficked victims. Several public institutions, public-private partnerships and NGOs attempt to combat the human trafficking and exploitation problem.

- In 2021, the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (Romanian: DIICOT) received \$2.98 million to combat the online sex trafficking. Furthermore, the Romanian Government allocated \$12.6 million to specialized facilities in which trafficked children were placed. Part of these funds also went to specialized facilities for children with disabilities and general children. Additionally, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection estimated allocating \$1.44 million for trafficked children and \$401,280 for trafficked adults. Unfortunately, no NGOs took advantage of the program [16].

6. Conclusions

Even if the slavery has been eradicated in 1833 in the United Kingdom and in 1862 in the United States of America, the phenomenon of modern slavery and human trafficking is more actual than ever. There are networks of traffickers all over the world that gain lots of funds each year over the human trafficking.

Even if the number of declared victims of human trafficking decreased over the last ten years, the phenomenon exists and it is revealed these days more than ever, because the media and the internet give access to all the information for all the people who are interested and search for this information. The question is if all this information is complete and correct.

The traffickers have a strong network and financial means and are fast adapting their mischievous strategies to the new environment in a continuous change, even faster than the authorities that have to follow legal procedures and spend the limited public money in order to counterattack the human trafficking phenomenon.

There are also lots of cases of corruption within the governmental structures, sometimes even at the root of the problem, traffickers directly involved with official functions at legal institutions where there are institutionalized victims, and vulnerable people at hand of the traffickers. This is an unwanted situation, that has been made public recently after years of silence from the authorities on this matter.

In the meantime, the victims struggle to survive and to escape the trap they are in, but without help the struggle is meaningless against the huge pressure of the traffickers.

This phenomenon wouldn’t be possible if the necessary minimum human living conditions would have been accomplished in all the countries wide world. But there is still an enormous inequity between the states of the world and within each country, economical social, educational differences that widen the gap between the rich and the poor. There are annual meetings between the economic powers of the world and there are strategies and plans projected for the years to come, but the real social problems of the poor and the vulnerable are not fulfilled by the governments. This is one of the reasons why the civil society choose to take action, organizing themselves in NGOs, which are one legal form of existence in order to involve into the society and fill in the gaps left by the insufficiency of the governmental strategies and laws.



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The cooperation between the involved countries grew stronger on the common basis and the common objectives.

The involved NGOs in the fight against human trafficking are doing little steps in this area, but all forces combined, there are some notable results of their work, that can be seen in the number of beneficiaries of different programs for the victims of human trafficking, the number of people involved in these organizations as experts or not, the little changes in the justice system along these years of struggle with the necessary legal procedures towards these changes.

The fight against the phenomenon of human trafficking is a long-term struggle for all the parties involved, and its purpose is so strong and meaningful the more so as the countries involved live in democracy and they are all aware of the human right of each human being to liberty and pursuit of happiness.

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