



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
IOM Internationale Organisatie voor Migratie

ROMANIA

Country Information Sheet Return and Re-integration assistance to victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

This factsheet contains important and useful information related to the return and reintegration assistance available in Romania for victims of trafficking. This information has been collated by IOM in close co-operation with its Field Mission in Bucharest in view of setting up mechanisms and procedures for the voluntary, orderly, safe and dignified return of victims of trafficking.

Do not hesitate to contact IOM Brussels if you need any further information

1. Introduction

This document brings together some practical information regarding legislation in Romania regarding matters related to trafficking in human beings and sheds a light upon what kind of assistance can be provided to Romanian victims of trafficking who voluntarily wish to return to their home country. It includes assistance that can be provided either by government initiatives, NGOs and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

High priority has recently been given by the Romanian government to combating the traffi-

cking in human beings and furthering assistance to victims. The Parliament passed a law on the Prevention and Combat of Trafficking in Human Beings, regulating "the prevention and combat of trafficking in persons, as well as the protection and assistance granted to trafficking victims". It also adopted a National Strategic Plan.

IOM has taken a leading role in the fight against the trafficking in women in Romania, having established a large and deep-reaching network of partners to help prevent this crime and assist its victims.

2. Legal Background

The Parliament of Romania adopted a Law on the Prevention and Combat of Trafficking in Human Beings. It "regulates the prevention and combat of trafficking in human beings, as well as the protection and assistance granted to trafficking victims." (Art.1).

This law constitutes a legal framework for the Government's action in the fields of prevention of trafficking in Human Beings: "In order to combat trafficking in human beings efficiently, the public authorities and institutions listed in this Chapter, the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other representatives

of the civil society shall engage, separately or in conjunction, as the case may be, in a sustained activity to prevent trafficking in human beings, especially women and children." (Art.3).

This Law punishes with 3 to 25 years imprisonment, according to the circumstances, and denial of a number of rights "whoever recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives a person, through the use of threats or violence or the use of other forms of coercion, through kidnapping, fraud or misrepresentation, abuse of power or by taking advantage of that person's inability to defend him-/herself or to

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express his/her will or by giving or receiving money or other benefits in order to obtain the agreement of a person who has control over another person with the intent of exploiting the latter.” (Art.12)

In the field of protection and assistance, it is stipulated that victims of trafficking “shall be granted special physical, legal and social

protection and assistance. (...) Underage victims of the crimes stipulated in this Law shall be granted special protection and assistance, as appropriate for their age.” (Art.26)

The Romanian Government is currently preparing a law for witness protection, which will be instrumental in ensuring the victims’ security.

3. Government action

The Romanian government has carried out many actions aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as at assisting the victims. It works in very close co-operation with IOM and NGOs. Several steps have been undertaken in this direction:

- Creation of a Regional Centre for Preventing and Combating Transboundary Crime has been set up in Bucharest;

- Creation of a department for women’s rights under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;
- In April 2001, the Government appointed a national co-ordinator to combat trafficking;
- Sponsoring of a regional international conference to combat trafficking in May 2001;
- Provision of locations for IOM to set up shelters for victims of trafficking and creation of a hotline.

4. Other forms of assistance

IOM Bucharest has extensive experience in the field of counter-trafficking. It has carried out several activities vis-à-vis victims of trafficking in human beings, and similar assistance mechanisms can be set in place for potential victims of trafficking who wish to voluntarily return to Romania. Programmes carried out by IOM Bucharest include prevention, assistance, research, law reform and inter-agency co-operation.

In the field of assistance to victims of trafficking, a series of actions have been carried out:

- Direct assistance to 490 victims of trafficking between January 2000 and April 2002. This programme includes the provision of temporary shelter, protection, medical assistance for returning and transiting victims as well as re-integration mechanisms (psychological counselling, general social

- assistance, educational assistance, vocational training, career orientation, employment and job finding counselling),
- Opening of the Centre for the temporary protection, medical assistance and expert counselling of returned victims of trafficking in human beings, in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior and Estuar Foundation,
- 7 workshops with NGOs and government agencies, including NGO working group for the standardisation of the assistance services for the reintegration of victims of trafficking,
- Training and support for the NGOs active in the field of assistance to and reintegration of victims,
- Network of 25 NGOs providing reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking at a local level.

5. Contacts

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6. Partner NGOs

See the attached list.