



TOLERANT

Support Victims of Human Trafficking

TOLERANT: Transnational network for Employment integration of women victims of trafficking

Newsletter No6

August 2021

TOLERANT is a transnational network aiming to support the regular exchange of good practices, experiences and information related to ground work for integrating women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation (VoT) in employment and for promoting their economic empowerment.

The **TOLERANT** network which started with **5** members now unites **20** organizations.

You can also join by sending a short description of your organization [here](#).

The network and its newsletter provide updated information on what is happening in Europe in the area of integration and economic empowerment of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

TOLERANT partners follow the worrying updates in Afghanistan, where the new regime puts women's and minority groups' rights under severe threat. Conflict and post-conflict situations increase the likelihood of human trafficking. Vulnerabilities of women in conflict and post-conflict situations are a product of unequal access to resources prior to a conflict. Through the destabilization of a state and the elimination of norms due to armed conflicts, the vulnerability of women, especially for sexualized violence, increases. Forced migration is often one way to escape armed conflicts. People fleeing conflict will take risks, which otherwise would be unacceptable and are therefore left in a situation of increased vulnerability to gender-based violence. In case of a new migrants fleeing to Europe, we are ready to provide our services to any woman, victim of gender based violence or at risk, who will need our support. We strongly believe that the knowledge and tools produced under the framework of TOLERANT project, including the TOLERANT NETWORK – a significant resource for the Civil Society Sector, will be extremely helpful towards women's empowerment and the fulfillment of their rights.

► International news

- New EU **Anti-trafficking Coordinator** was appointed on 1st of July. Ms. Diane Schmitt took position of EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator.
- On July 1, the US State Department released its 2021 **TIP Report**.
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) published a report **"Applying Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings"** examining the invisible aspects of the gender dimension in the crime of trafficking in human beings.
- GRETA published its **10th report**. It includes information on the activities for the period 1 January -31 December 2020. Special focus is given to the impact of COVID -19 pandemic on combating THB and on improving identification of victims and access to protection among asylum seekers.
- Regional conference "Acting together in the face of crisis: Protecting children from trafficking and exploitation in the Western Balkans" held online on the 22-23 June, 2021. Read more [here](#)
- On 16 June 2021, on International Domestic Workers Day, La Strada International, its members, including LEFÖ and Animus Association, released a **statement** and called upon governments to ratify the **ILO Domestic Workers Convention** and to take measures to ensure better protection and access to rights for domestic workers. On this day, exactly ten years ago, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) adopted the Convention, which recognizes that domestic workers should have access to

PROJECT PARTNERS



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the same rights as all other workers. The Convention has now been ratified by 32 countries worldwide but most European countries have still not ratified this important convention.

► If you missed:

The EC published the **Third report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings.**

- It states that in Europe women and girls remain the main victims of this serious and organised crime. 72 % of all registered victims were women and girls. Women and girls are significant majority (92 %) of the victims of sexual exploitation in the EU. Children are 22% of all victims.
- Migration continues to be a major risk factor to trafficking in human beings and 51% of the victims are coming from outside the EU.
- When it comes to the forms of trafficking, the victims have been affected by the following forms of exploitation – 61% for sexual exploitation, 15% for labour exploitation, while the rest are forced into begging, criminal activities, forced marriages, organ removal, etc.
- Traffickers rely more and more on the Internet when recruiting victims.

In response to these findings, the services on labour integration of third-country-national women victims of trafficking established within the TOLERANT project continue working in Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Romania.

► Information shared by the TOLERANT network new members

A21 started a new campaign **Can you see me Campaign**. Its goal is to equip the general public with tools to recognize indicators of human trafficking, and report suspected scenarios. An increase in reports will lead to an increase in victim identification. It will bring awareness of the millions of men, women, and children who are currently trapped in slavery across the world. A21 believes that by partnering with law enforcement, governments, businesses, and NGOs, awareness will be turned into action.

► See our video clips

These short video clips were developed within the TOLERANT project in order to increase the awareness in our countries on the necessity of legal employment as the strongest factor for prevention of human trafficking among third-country-national women.

You are free to use the videos in your awareness-raising and prevention activities (as long as you provide the source of the video including copyrights).

► Greece:

- A21 Greece and the Office of the Greek National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation**
- The Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and UNICEF Greece jointly develop a framework for cooperation to raise awareness, prevent and protect children from the crime of Trafficking in Human Beings. In order to promote joint actions in this field, a relevant Letter of Agreement was signed between the National Rapporteur Mr. Hercules Moskoff and the Head of UNICEF Greece, Mr. Luciano Calestini. More info [here](#)
- Meeting of the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings | 15.06.2021 / The presentation of the New European Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025 was on the agenda of the meeting of the Subcommittee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation. You can watch the whole meeting [here](#)
- The annual **report** of the National Referral Mechanism for 2020 is out.
- Raise Your Voice festival was organised in April 2020. It is the only festival related to human trafficking in Greece – More info [here](#)
- The national mechanism for locating and protecting unaccompanied children in precarious conditions is operational. The National Mechanism includes a 24-hour hotline for the identification and identification of children in need. More information [here](#)
- Interesting **podcasts** produced by A21 were released:
- A new AMIF-funded project will start during October 2021 led by KMOP. **AMELIE - enhAncing Mechanisms of idEntification, protection and multiagency collaboration through transnational and multi-sectoral actors' Engagement (AMIF)**: the project aims to increase the capacity of health care and frontline service providers to identify and safely refer and provide gender- and trauma-sensitive services to trafficked persons, with a focus on adult women.



Applicant: KMOP (EL)

Partners: SOLWODI (DE), PAYOKE (BE), Differenza Donna (IT), APG23 (IT)

READ ABOUT:

► Italy:

- A new interesting **video** about sexual violence was launched on the online platform U-Report on the Move, run by UNICEF. The Centro PENC of Palermo collaborated with UNICEF in this initiative in order to spread awareness among the local migrant community, with a special focus on vulnerable women.



- RI-TRATTI Festival, 23-24 September 2021 in Rome Italy, puts into the light bravery and experiences of women moving from one country to another, it presents stories through the fanzines and discusses about a global phenomenon of human trafficking. 2-day festival, curated by Libera Nazionale and CESIE

(IT), will provide a full-immersion into the discussions around arts and fanzines, psychology and support, labour inclusion and vulnerabilities, migration and human trafficking. The festival is organized as part of HEAL project, funded by AMIF program of the EC. More information soon on www.healproject.eu

- Another initiative of the HEAL project is the RI-TRATTI #spinoff exhibition in Palermo, 21-31 July 2021, showcases 11 fanzines made in the form of a personal diary combining different media: text, collage, painting, stamps, markers and glitter. The exhibition highlights the experiences of 11 immigrant courageous women in Palermo with a strong experience who have never stopped dreaming. For more details, please visit: <https://cesie.org/en/project/heal/>.

- On the 24th of June, 2021, **Centro PENC** presented and inaugurated the Safe Space for Women and Girls in Palermo, a place where migrant women can receive assistance, orientation and different types of support in accordance to their needs. The Safe Space was founded last year in collaboration with UNICEF and the Guarantor for children and adolescents of the Municipality of Palermo.

- On the 3rd of May, Differenza Donna NGO participated in the Conference “Trafficking and exploitation of women and minors, strategies to counteract and intervene”, organized by the Bar Association of Rome. Follow the [link](#).

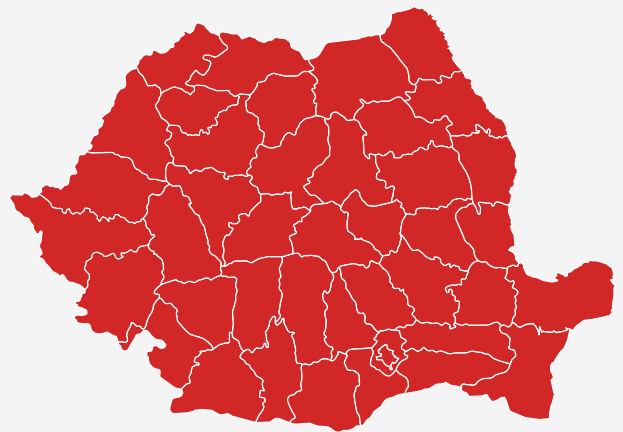
- On the 17th of February, Differenza Donna NGO spoke at the Commission on femicide – Italian Parliament – about Female Genital Mutilation. During the presentation there was also a focus on women victims of trafficking and exploitation.

- On the 17th and 22nd of June, Differenza Donna NGO held two training days for operators of anti-trafficking Centers and reception Centers for asylum seeker and refugee on trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. Two more trainings days for operator and two training days for lawyer will be organized in the next weeks. Follow updates in DD’s website: <https://www.differenzadonna.org/>

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► Romania:

• The Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania-AIDRom, together with the Novapolis Association - Center for Analysis and Initiatives for Development, the Prefect's Institution of Caraș-Severin County and the Prefect's Institution of Timiș County announce the beginning of the project **Eyes on Migrants** (EoM) – Solidar and inclusive communities for immigrants in Romania. The project aim is to contribute to the deconstruction of stereotypes and prejudices about immigration and to the improvement of the integration process of migrants and refugees in Romania.



• The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons-ANITP and the INCA Romania Association launched the campaign to prevent human trafficking “Work without legal forms - a step closer to human trafficking”. The campaign runs from April to December 2021, both in Romania and in Italy, and aims to increase the level of information of Romanians working or wanting to work abroad, especially in Italy, on the risks associated with work without forms and human trafficking. More details [here](#)

• AIDRom in cooperation with the National Agency Against Human Trafficking (A.N.I.T.P.) and the Bucharest National Airports Company (C.N.A.B.) launched in March 2021, the online campaign to prevent human trafficking “Appreciate women! Do not tolerate their exploitation!” The campaign aims to inform and raise public awareness about human trafficking for the sexual exploitation of women. More details [here](#)

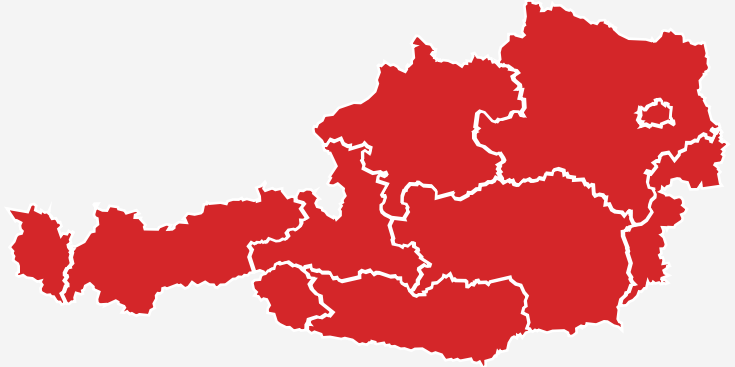
• The National Agency Against Trafficking in Human Beings (A.N.I.T.P.) organized, on May 12 a.c., the Round Table - Development of collaboration in the field of human trafficking between civil society and public and private sector representatives. On this occasion, ANITP Day was also marked. AIDRom presented also the movie made within the TOLERANT project. More details [here](#)

• The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the US Embassy in Romania, the National Agency against Trafficking in Human Beings (ANITP) and the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT), launched in May 2021 the project “FIGHT - Leading a United Pathway to anti-Trafficking Action” whose general objective is to contribute to the efforts of the Romanian Government to combat human trafficking. This project aims to strengthen the collaboration between the key actors involved in the criminal and judicial prosecution phase, by providing support for victims of human trafficking. More details [here](#)

READ ABOUT:

► **Austria:**

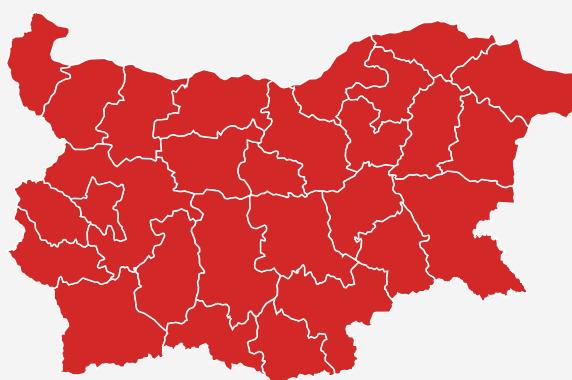
- As part of the project “REST – REsidency Status: Strengthening the Protection of Trafficked Persons” **a guide on promising practices** – Long term protection for trafficked persons has been published in 6 languages. See also the **French, German, Moldovan, Serbian** and **Spanish** versions of the guide. Starting from identification of gaps and barriers in the effective protection on trafficked persons, the guide shares promising existing practices in line with a coherent referral to the most appropriate channel of protection securing their rights and access to a durable solution.
- The annual Trafficking in Persons Report of the U.S. Department of State ranks Austria again, since 2014 in Tier 1 for its efforts to fully meet the standards for combatting trafficking in persons. This year’s report especially emphasized the continuous effort during the COVID-19 pandemic to identify victims of trafficking, but says that “gaps remain(ed) in the referral process for potential victims of trafficking among migrants and asylum-seekers.”



READ ABOUT:

► Bulgaria:

- Directorate General “Combatting Organized Crime” and the National Commission on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), supported by EMPACT, started a campaign on prevention of trafficking in human beings focused on sexual exploitation - **“Blind Betting”**.



- On 4 July 2021 the 28th meeting of the Country Committee on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings took place. During the meeting, the participants discussed the Third Evaluation Report of the group of experts on trafficking in human beings (GRETA) in relation to the implementation of the Convention by Bulgaria as well as the comments made by authorities regarding the Report. Based on GRETA’s conclusions, the Country Committee adopted a recommendation (Recommendation CP/Rec(2021)01) on the Convention implementation by Bulgaria. In accordance with the Recommendation, Bulgarian government was asked to provide a report on the adopted measures for its implementation by 4 June 2023.

- On 1 July 2021, Animus Association Foundation organized a business breakfast called “The Hidden Potential of Migrant Women in Bulgaria” which was attended by representatives of businesses and potential employers for third-country-national women victims of trafficking. How third-country-national women can actively participate in the labour market? How can state institutions and non-governmental organizations can support this process? What do we have to know about migrant women in order to develop their full labour potential? These are just some of the questions the participants discussed. They were also introduced to trafficking in human beings as one of the most severe forms of gender-based violence to which third-country-national women often fall victims to. The meeting was organized within the **WIN – Trafficked Women Integration** project funded by the AMIF programme of the European Commission.



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