

# **2020 BRIEF ANALYSIS**

## **ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

### **Preamble**

In accordance with the objectives established by the 2018-2022 National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons (SNITP), as well as based on the attributions stipulated in the GD 460/2011, in 2020 ANITP carried out various activities for evaluating and monitoring the phenomenon of trafficking in persons.

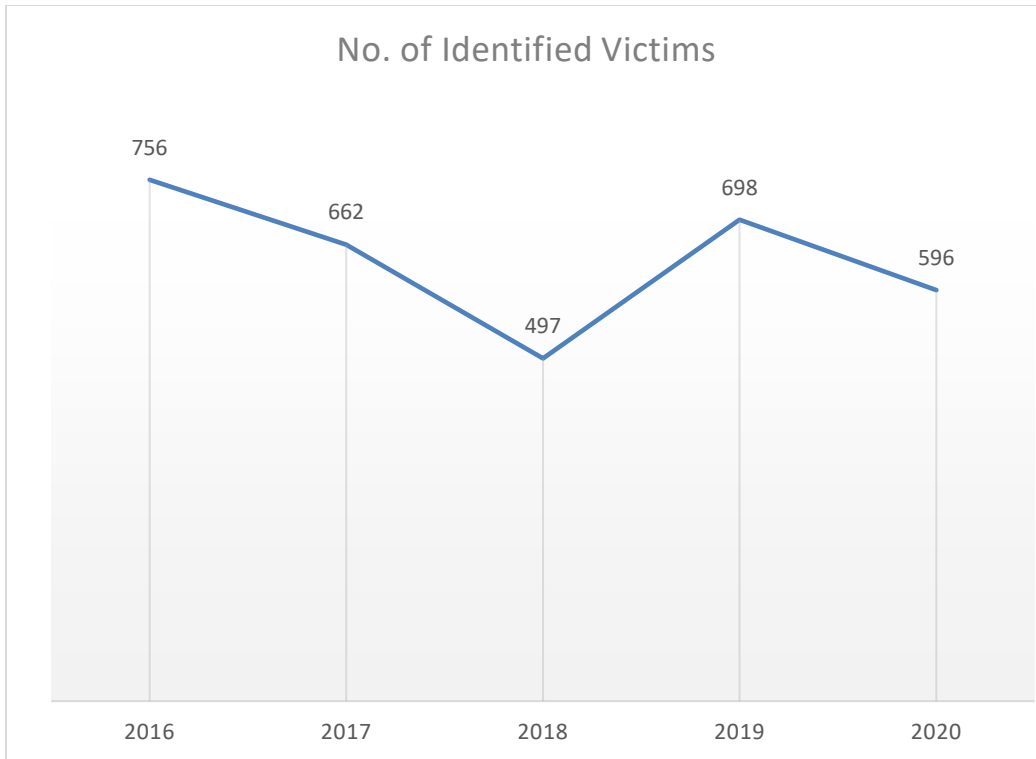
This analysis is using data centralized at national level for the year 2020.

The particularity of this analysis was determined by the unprecedented situation of 2020, which globally has been under the sign of the first pandemic in the last hundred years. This has led to certain imbalances or gaps, generated by prolonged lockdown, border closures and therefore to a number of direct effects like reduced travel, economic and social pressures resulting from a drastic decline in the activity of entire economic sectors and thus increased unemployment. These factors had a direct influence on human trafficking, which we will later refer to in this analysis.

The data processed by ANITP in 2020 use, as in the previous years, the same qualitative indicators, which facilitate the understanding and, at the same time, the drawing of the profile of victims of trafficking in persons in Romania. Thus, indicators such as: gender, age, education, geographical area and type of exploitation were analyzed.

### **Trafficking in Persons Dynamics**

In 2020, the number of identified victims decreased by approximately 15% compared to 2019, from **698** to **596**. The identified victims are Romanian citizens, except for one victim from the Republic of Moldova.



**Figure 1 Yearly Dynamics of VoTs for 2016-2020**

## **Gender and Age**

In 2020, the number of female victims is approximately 3.5 times higher compared to male victims, thus, out of the total number of victims, 463 are women and 133 men. Regarding the age of the victims, there is a slight percentage decrease in the number of identified minors, compared to 2019.

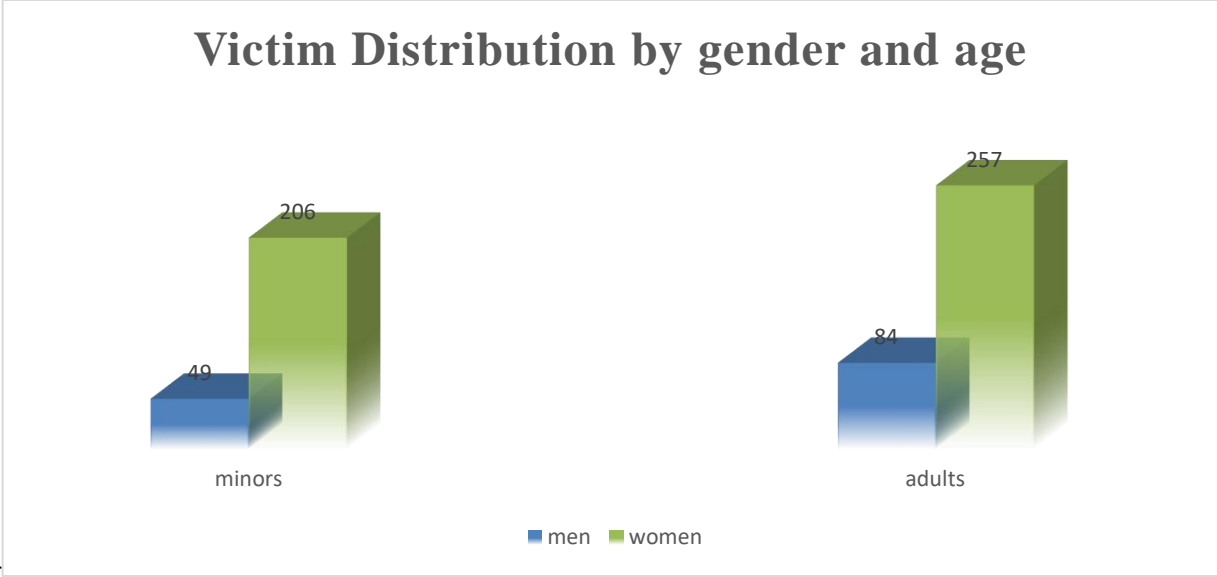


Figure 2 2020 Victim Distribution by gender and age

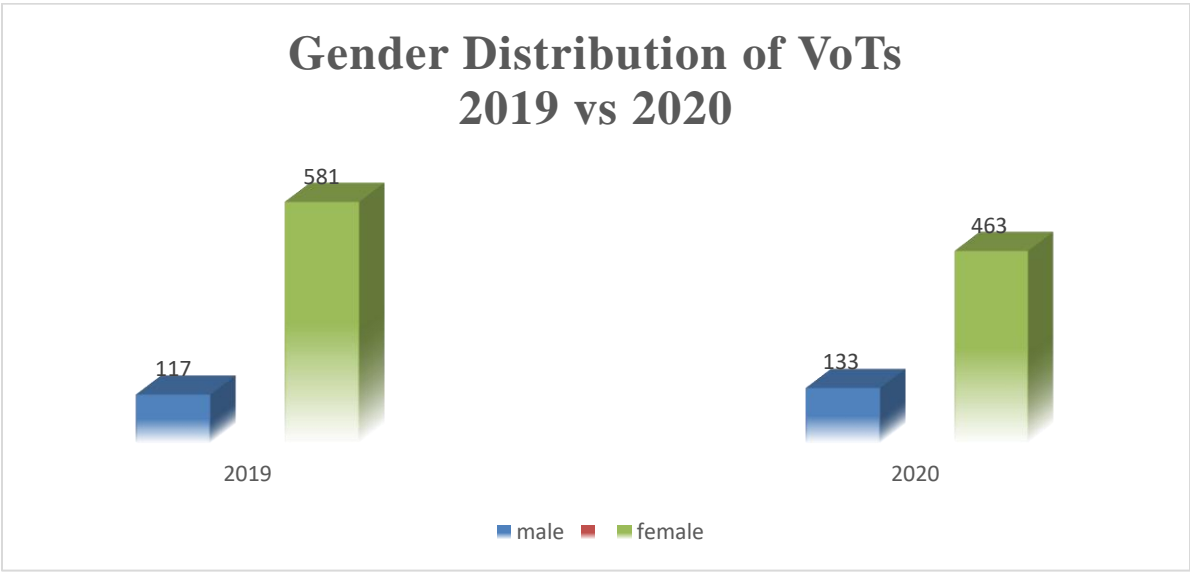


Figure 3 Gender Distribution of VoTs 2019 vs 2020

## Education and other socio-demographic indicators

The level of education of victims of trafficking in persons remains low, 68.5% of them being out of school or having at most secondary education, 29.8% high school/ vocational school and 1.5% a higher level of education.

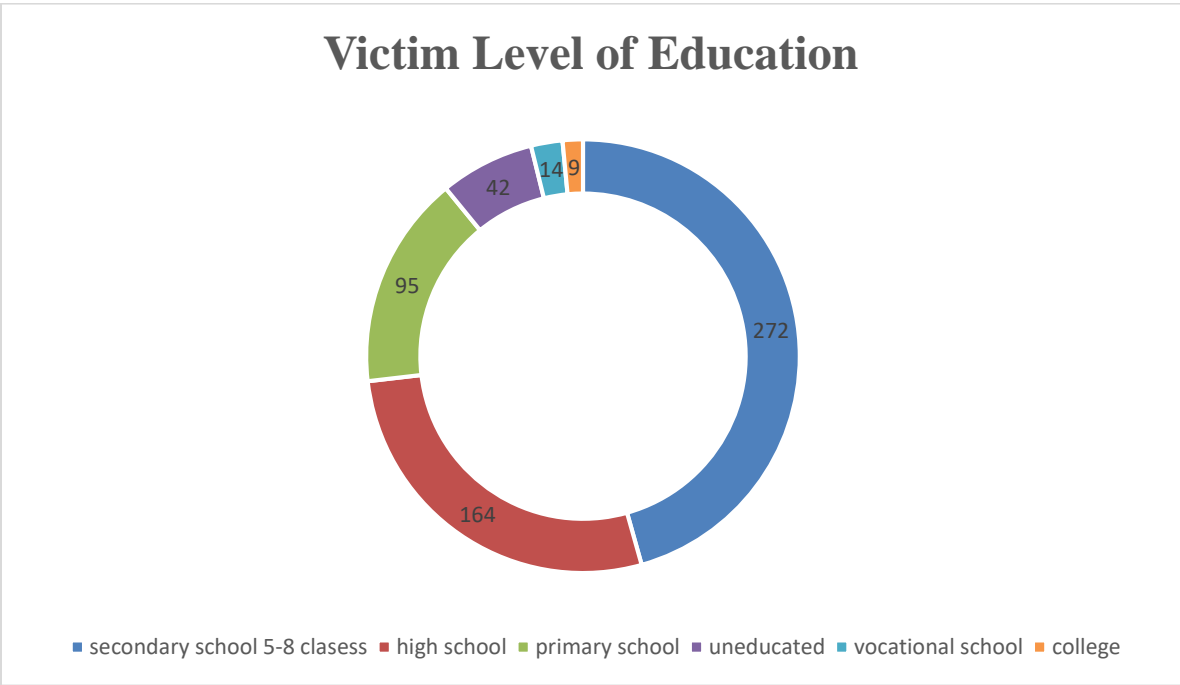


Figure 4 Level of education of VoTs identified in 2020

## Areas and counties of origin

In 2020, as in the previous year, it was noticed that the Eastern and Southern areas of Romania (Galati, Iasi, Bacau, Dolj counties) represent a pool for recruiting victims of human trafficking. We note, at the same time, the doubling of the number of identified victims from Timiș County, as compared to 2019.

No. of VoTs	County of origin
45	Galați
34	Iași
33	Bacău
30	Dolj
29	Timiș
26	Bucharest
24	Argeș
23	Ilfov, Bihor
21	Mureș
19	Brăila, Tulcea

In 2020, over 50% of the identified victims came from rural areas (52.5%), the others coming from urban areas.

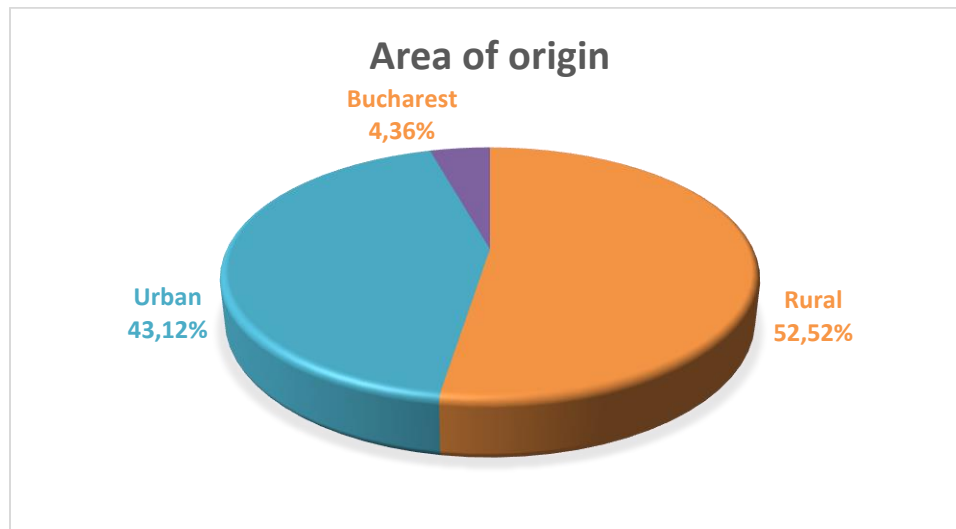


Figure 5 Area of origin

# Recruitment and the relation with the recruiter

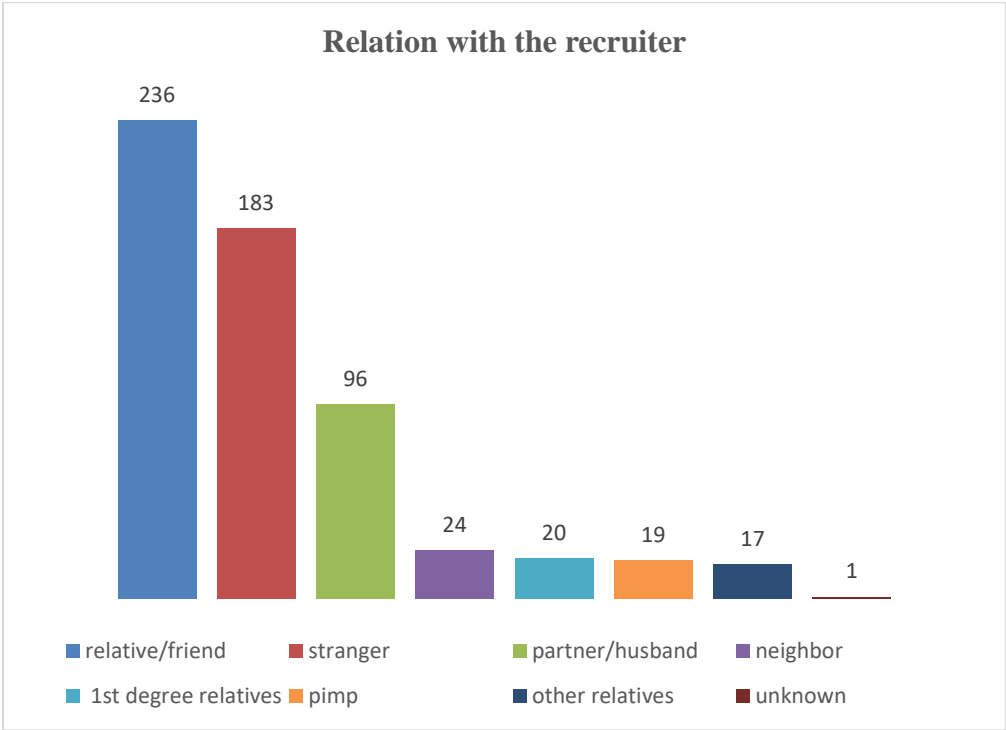
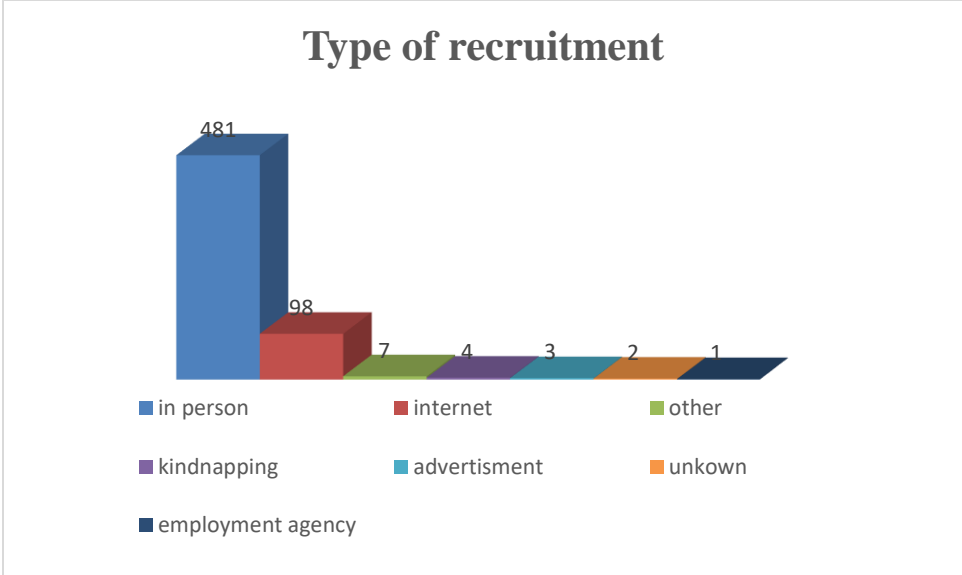


Figure 6 Victim’s relation with the recruiter

In 2020, victim’s recruitment followed the pattern of the previous year, that of trust in acquaintances, friends, family. Thus, over 80% of the victims were directly recruited.

As a consequence of the restrictive measures imposed by the pandemic, the Internet has been the most widely used social tool, leading to an increase in the number of victims recruited through this means of communication and information.



**Figure 7 Type of recruitment of victims**

### Conditions and promises at the time of recruitment



**Figure 8 Recruitment conditions of victims**

The recruitment conditions for 2020 are similar to those of previous years. 27.1% of the victims were recruited for the purpose of prostitution and 23.7% for job offers abroad.

### Exploitation

As a follow-up to the conditions of recruitment for the purpose of prostitution and the need for "well-paid" jobs, sexual exploitation is the most common type of exploitation, followed by forced labor and begging.

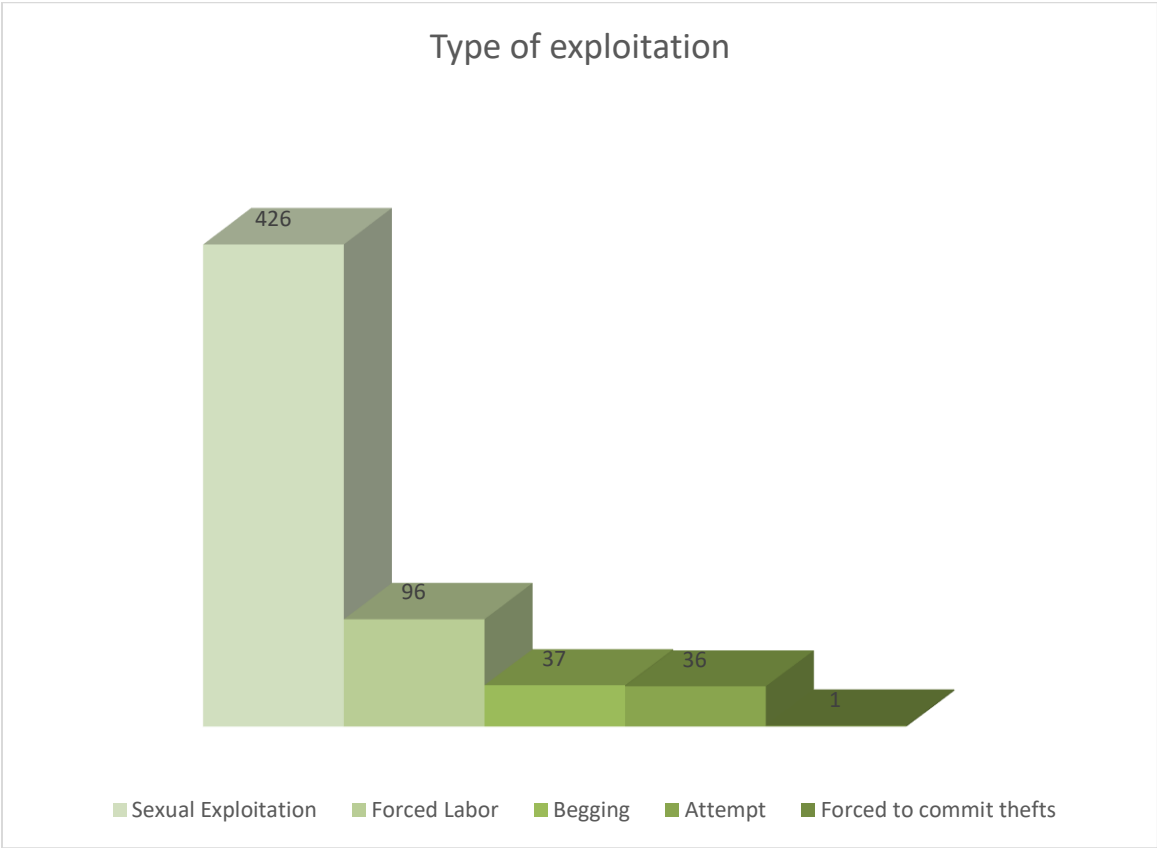


Figure 8 Types of exploitation of victims identified in 2020



## Destination<sup>1</sup>

Internal trafficking represented 53.8% of all trafficking situations. Even if the reference period also included the months in which Romania was in a state of emergency, the number of victims exploited outside the national borders is comparable to that of the previous year. Regarding the destination countries, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and Spain remained the main countries for trafficking victims for the purpose of exploitation.

ROMANIA	321
UK	75
GERMANY	57
ITALY	42
SPAIN	33
SWEDEN	25
FRANCE	18
SWITZERLAND	16
AUSTRIA	14
IRELAND	13
BELGIUM	10
CZECH REP.	9
THE NETHERLANDS	8
NORWAY	5
CYPRUS	4
GREECE, DENMARK	3
FINLAND	2

## Conclusion

The data analysis regarding the victims of human trafficking for 2020, be it Romanian citizens or foreigners, leads to the following conclusions:

- In 2020, there was a decrease in the number of victims reported and registered in the National Identification and Referral Mechanism, compared to the previous year;

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 13% of the victims were trafficked to several destinations

- It is premature to conclude that this decrease occurred only as a result of border closure and movement restrictions;
- We continue to notice a certain victim profile (female, poor level of education, coming from disorganized families and disadvantaged areas);
- The effects of the pandemic, including in economic terms, are expected to lead to changes in the dynamics of human trafficking in the coming period.