

The 2018 National report on trafficking in persons gives us a proper perspective on the victims registered in the National Identification and Referral Mechanism in the respective year.

As a member state of the EU and signatory of European and international norms in the field of preventing and combating trafficking in persons, Romania has implicitly assumed the obligation to periodically report to different European and international bodies, on the responsibilities assumed according to these regulations. Therefore, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons is mandated by law to fulfill **the role of the National Rapporteur**, in the field of preventing and combating trafficking in persons. The main results of ANITP actions in 2018 are, as follows:

- a) Promoting, for adoption, the draft 2018-2022 National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons and the 2018-2020 National Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy (both public policy documents were adopted through GD no. 861/2018);
- b) Implementing the Victim Witness Coordination Program in the criminal trial. There is a significant increase in the participation rate of victims -witnesses, in the criminal trial - 349 victims, identified in 2018, have benefited from various services, within the Program;
- c) Repatriation of victims, Romanian citizens (19 persons);
- d) The assistance provided to a number of 236 victims of trafficking was monitored;
- e) Improving the MNIR implementation¹:
 - Review of indicators for the identification of trafficked victims,
 - Standardized risk assessments on identified victims of trafficking,
 - Standardized procedures for assisted repatriation of victims of human trafficking
 - Improved National Identification and Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in persons²,
 - Training of professionals to implement the National Identification and Referral Mechanism³.

¹ Within the ROFSIP2016OS5A10P01 "Trafficking in persons – a victim centered approach" project.

² The procedure for editing and printing the MNIR project was initiated, for a total of 2850 Romanian copies, and 150 English copies, and for editing and printing of 1500 brochures regarding the Procedure for identifying victims of trafficking in persons, the Procedure for assessing the risks and special needs of assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in persons and the Procedure for assisted voluntary repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons.

³ Between October and December 2018, 5 training sessions were held in five major cities. Each session brought together approximately 22 representatives of the professional categories who may come in contact with a victim of human trafficking and mentioned as having responsibilities within the National Identification and Referral Mechanism.

- f) Reconfiguration of the integrated system of monitoring and recording of victims of trafficking in persons. In partnership with IGPR, within the project ROFSIP2016OS6A15P01 "SISPOL 2"⁴, ANITP initiated the reconfiguration of the integrated system of monitoring and recording of victims of trafficking. The result, which bears the name of SIMEV2 (Integrated system for monitoring and evaluating the situation of victims of trafficking in persons, functional and updated), will have an improved operational capacity, by reducing by 40% the time required to draft statistical reports for national and transnational institutions, etc.,
- g) Periodic research and evaluation of the characteristics, dimensions and evolution of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons;
- h) Answering the multiple evaluation questionnaires, sent by European and international organizations (CoE, EC, OSCE, UNODC, EUROSTAT, etc.), using national data in the field;
- i) Prevention of trafficking in persons and cooperation with civil society: 36 national and local campaigns/ projects to prevent trafficking; 1,864 prevention activities, addressed to approximately 122,000 direct beneficiaries;
- j) Managing the incoming calls through the HELpline: there were 3,404 calls registered, out of which 13 have represented possible cases of trafficking, these being referred to the competent institutions. As compared to 2017, there is a quantitative increase in the number of calls, as well as in the requests for information and notifications of possible trafficking cases;
- k) Developing the cooperation with the Member States and specialized structures of the European Union, as well as with international bodies (e.g. UNODC, OSCE, Council of Europe, UN, Council of the Baltic Sea States);
- l) The Agency's activity in the media and on social networks: 203 radio and television appearances in the form of participation in live, recorded, synchronous and interview broadcasts; 97 press releases; 2 conferences; 310 background articles, news and reports; 1,341 online appearances; 2,087 posts on the Facebook page;
- m) 4 projects were implemented⁵: 2 financed as an applicant through the Internal Security Fund; 1 as a partner through the Internal Security Fund; 1 as a partner, financed by the European Commission, already finished.

⁴ The project belongs to IGPR and aims to ensure the security, performance and availability of the Romanian Police IT system in order to increase the capacity of data storage and transmission, while ensuring the availability of systems that manage information of police interest.

⁵ Activities within the projects' implementation:

- the value of the projects under implementation, as applicant: approximately 2,101,006 lei, excluding VAT;
- the total value of the implemented projects, as partner, respectively of 33,873,266.70 EURO;

Visible and invisible victims of trafficking in persons

MNIR records those persons, victims or presumed victims of trafficking in persons, who are identified and referred by one of the institutions or organizations with responsibilities in applying *the Order no. 335 of October 29, 2007 for the approval of the National Mechanism for Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking in Persons*⁶. MNIR also records those persons, victims or presumed victims of trafficking in persons, who are referred by institutions and organizations abroad.

The multiannual evolution of the population size of identified victims keeps the general downward trend registered during the last 11 years (figure 1). The statistical data indicate a decrease in the number of registered victims, in the year 2018, in the MNIR (from 662 victims, identified in 2017, to 497, in 2018).

The data reflect a tendency recorded in the dynamics of the phenomenon of victimization through human trafficking, in a relevant period of time of more than 10 years. The decrease in the number of victims represents the multiplied effect of the efforts of the authorities and civil society, over the last decade.

In the absence of a scientific evaluation, of a nomothetic and explanatory type, based on hypothetical-deductive reasoning, judgments like "the authorities have identified fewer victims" may lead to a false conclusion, suggesting a decrease of the efforts of the authorities involved in identifying the victims of human trafficking. The criminal justice performances progressively generate the control and deterrence of organized crime related to human trafficking, leading to a progressive decrease in the victimization rate.

The decrease in the number of victims is also due to the changes in the criminal strategies: in recent years, the Romanian Police has noticed a shift towards pimping, the victims being recruited for the purpose of voluntarily practicing prostitution, both inside the country and in other states of exploitation, usually by false Internet offers of various massage

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- training of 100 professional, throughout 2018, for the implementation of the improved National Identification and Referral Mechanism
 - production of 2 documentaries on trafficking in persons;
 - production of 132,832 campaign promotion materials;
 - organizing 42 round tables in 9 months, within a single campaign to prevent trafficking in persons for the purpose of labor exploitation;
 - promoting the message of the campaign through 34 street advertising panels.

⁶ The Joint Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administrative Reform, of the Minister of Labor, Family and Equal Opportunities, of the Minister of Education, Research and Youth, of the Minister of Public Health, of the President of the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the General Prosecutor of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice and of the Minister of Justice

- ✘ the “country of destination for exploitation of victims” criterion: Romania - 44.4%, UK - 20.8%, Germany - 9.3%, Italy - 7.8%, Spain - 4%. Compared to 2017, with the exception of France, the other countries remain main destinations for the exploitation of victims, Romanian citizens.
- ✘ the “type of exploitation” criterion: the sexual exploitation of the victims represents 67.4% of the total number of victims registered in the MNIR (335 persons), compared to 68.8% in 2017.
- ✘ victimele cetățeni români sunt majoritari (496), fiind identificată o singură persoană, cu cetățenie moldovenească. victims of TIP, Romanian citizens, represent the majority (496), only one person, with Moldovan citizenship being identified.
- ✘ female victims represent an increased share of the total number of identified victims (73%, compared to 76.4% in 2017).

or escort services. The preferred exploitation states, in this case, are usually those where prostitution is legalized or tolerated.

Figure 1. Annual Dynamics of Victim Population, 2007-2018

In the last years, Romania has mainly been a country of origin for victims of trafficking in human beings, with multiple associated vulnerabilities of some segments of the population, in search of better life opportunities. At the same time, Western European countries continued to maintain the status of exploitation countries for Romanian citizens, trapped in trafficking and exploitation situations, where there is an increased demand for cheap labor, for sexual services, or where there is the right context for tolerated begging.

The ever - increasing demand, in the countries of exploitation, is becoming more and more an element of encouragement for vulnerable persons, more or less explicitly looking for sources of legal or illicit income, to provide them with a decent life. Thus, the future victims get into a trafficking situation, especially in the states where the legislation is permissive or where prostitution is tolerated or legalized, these countries obviously representing also preferred destinations for traffickers or for Romanian pimps.

The demand coming from users of sexual services, from employers who have sought cheap and "contracted" labor outside or at the limit of legal conditions, is increasingly encouraging the supply of the "market" in some European countries with victims, vulnerable to conditions of rudimentary life or to attitudes and prejudices that have put people in extremely risky situations, involved in various situations of trafficking and exploitation of their skills and abilities, more or less qualified (exploitation through forced labor, offering sexual services , begging, etc.).



Adult victims

In 2018, we are witnessing a significant decrease in the number of adult female victims, compared to the previous year. If in 2018, out of a total of 285 adult victims, 181 were women (36.42%), in 2017 the number of women registered as victims of human trafficking was 248. However, the share of adult female victims, within the total population adult victims, remains almost unchanged - 37.46% in 2017.

Just like last year, the rural origin represents the majority among the adult victims, with a share of 58%. The ways in which adult victims are exploited are directly dependent on their gender. The age groups of most of the adult victims still remain 18-25 and 26-40 years old. The distribution of adult victims, by age groups, is presented below.

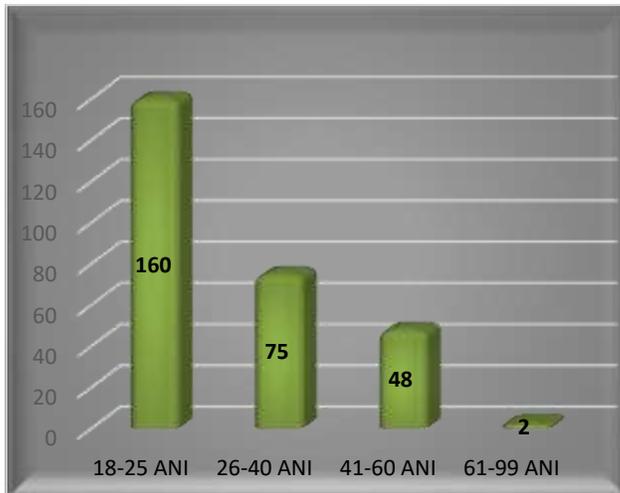


Figure 2. Age distribution of adult victims registered in 2018.

Minor victims

The share of minors was 42.7% of the total victims this year, compared to 51.4% in the previous year (by almost 10% less).

However, the share of minors, in the total number of victims registered annually, remains worrying. The identification of the minor victims reflects the efforts of the law enforcement authorities and of the Romanian nongovernmental organizations. It represents, at the same time, the effects of the legislative regulation of this crime, only by action (recruitment, transport, accommodation, etc.) and purpose (exploitation), the means (constraint, use of force, abuse of authority, etc.) not being compulsory when speaking about child trafficking. Therefore, if a minor is identified as practicing prostitution and the elements of recruitment, transportation, accommodation and subsequent exploitation are proven, then the minor will be a victim of child trafficking.

Domestic trafficking remains predominantly, a significant proportion of victims, especially minors, being exploited, in 2018, on the territory of Romania (244).

Organized crime and victim vulnerability

The tendencies shown by the data and information collected in the process of investigating the criminal cases, lead to a series of conclusions (tendencies, criminal strategies, characteristics of the offenders and accomplices)⁷:

→ Romania maintains its status of country of origin for victims of human trafficking;

⁷ Source: DCCO, 2019.

- The impact areas of the criminal activity of trafficking in persons, already established, remain the same: Germany, Italy, Spain, Great Britain;
- The classic types of exploitation of victims - sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, coercion in committing "petty crimes" and forced begging, observing the classification of types of exploitation from previous years, respectively sexual exploitation in the first place (over 80 % of the files registered in 2018), followed by labor exploitation and forced begging; at European level, the tendencies regarding the sexual exploitation as the main purpose of human trafficking are also found in Romania;
- The shift of the criminal groups towards the sexual exploitation of the victims, within the national borders, with the minor victims being preferred, easier to recruit and exploit (the internal trafficking represents about 50% of the total trafficking cases investigated by the Romanian Police);
- Changing the *modus operandi*: the ways of committing the crime of human trafficking are avoided through the use of threats and acts of extreme violence, kidnapping and deprivation of total freedom. These practices are replaced by less aggressive victim restraint methods, in particular the emotional blackmail and the blackmail through the artificial debt mechanism, but also by more fraudulent actions, especially regarding forced begging and forced labor;
- Forced begging, as a type of exploiting victims of human trafficking, retains its particularities and extent, due to the very limited financial and material resources of vulnerable persons, coming mostly from rural areas. For some individuals or families, begging, even if within the crime of human trafficking, has become a normal way of life and a perpetual source of income;
- Both the organization of the criminal networks and the actions of traffickers do not always respect the hierarchies of a pyramidal group type, but are based on the relationships generated by financial, family or coexistence interests, or by the belonging to the same ethnic group. The members of these groups also tend to act on their own, but they maintain their belonging to criminal groups and associations in order to gain *protection* against other offenders;
- The tendency of criminal groups of trafficking in human beings to abandon the structured group type of organization is visible. Instead, we encounter criminal associations, without a clear organizational structure, with interchangeable roles and without clear reports of subordination;
- Maintaining the mobility of the criminal networks of trafficking in persons in the countries of exploitation, through the rapid relocation of the activity of accommodation, harboring and exploitation, from one club to another, from one area to another (city,

- country). Criminal groups/ networks tend to act concurrently in several countries, especially where there is an increased demand on the sexual services market, but also on the labor market, as well as favorable conditions for begging by minors;
- We see an increased rate of Internet use, for the promotion of sexual services and / or for recruiting people for this purpose. There is an increased use of virtual social networks for recruitment and blackmail;
 - Traffickers are Romanian citizens, of both sexes, of various ages, some with a criminal record on human trafficking or other criminal acts. The share of foreign citizens investigated in human trafficking files is less than 1%;
 - Traffickers do not choose random victims, but only after "assessing" their vulnerabilities;
 - There are victims who unintentionally facilitate the recruitment of more people, by a small group of traffickers (in cases of labor exploitation);
 - In the countries of exploitation, the victims are either exploited by the same traffickers or are handed over to other members of the group or sold to other organized crime networks;
 - The practice of marriages of convenience between traffickers/ pimps and victims/ prostitutes, in order to bypass the law is still used;
 - In exchange for practicing begging, traffickers promise their victims a modest monthly amount, and the amounts of money obtained by victims are considered reimbursements, on account of debts generated by transportation, accommodation and food services;
 - Traffickers accompany the victims to the countries of exploitation, in order to supervise them and to take personally the amounts of money obtained.

Criminal justice

From Romania's perspective, from 2001 until now, the efforts of the anti-trafficking structures have been reflected in thousands of convictions, hundreds of organized criminal groups dismantled and very large penalties applied by the courts (eg over 20 years in prison - a good example is *the Student clan file* - 23 years in prison, in another case even 30 years in prison and life imprisonment). These examples can continue.

There were also investigated cases in which civil servants were involved in human trafficking offenses or related offenses, such as pimping or using the services of an exploited person. Such situations, however, represent a small percentage of the total number of human trafficking cases.

Criminal investigation and prosecution

The specialized structures for combating trafficking in human beings carried out investigations⁸ in 1598 criminal cases of crimes of trafficking in persons and trafficking in minors, as well as for setting up an organized criminal group, facts stipulated and punished by art. 210, 211 and 367 of the Criminal Code, but also pimping committed by an organized criminal group⁹ (art. 213 and 367 of the Criminal Code, facts within the jurisdiction of DIICOT)¹⁰.

Out of the 1598 files, 498 were registered in 2018, concerning 884 perpetrators, out of which 40 are unknown authors.



Figure 3. Criminal files registered in 2018 at the DCCO level

Four foreign citizens were investigated / prosecuted for the offence of human trafficking in the criminal cases initiated in the year 2018.

In the case of 5 criminal files initiated in 2018, prosecution was started, including on the basis of art. 216 of the Criminal Code - use of services of an exploited person. 17 files were also based on art. 374 - child pornography, and in 105 files, investigations were initiated also from the point of view of the offence stipulated in art. 367 Criminal Code - setting up / joining an organized criminal group.

In recent years, a special attention has been paid to **financial investigations**. During the investigative activities, the DCCO judicial police workers, together with DIICOT

⁸ Source: DCCO, Romanian Police, 2018.

⁹ Source DCCO, 2019.

¹⁰ Idem 7.

The legal classification of the committed acts targeted to a lesser extent also the art. 212, 214, 216, 220, 374 of the Criminal Code, respectively offenses with relevance in the aspect of trafficking in persons - submission to forced or compulsory labor, pimping, exploitation of begging, use of services of an exploited person, sexual intercourse with a minor, child pornography.

prosecutors, followed **the flow of the financial resources and the goods of the traffickers**, resulting from the offences.

One of the objectives is to identify the movable and immovable property of the members of the criminal groups, obtained as a result of crimes, with the DIICOT prosecutors deciding to seize the goods, on the basis of the administered evidence.

*The Romanian Police (D.C.C.O.)*¹¹ cooperated with the law enforcement authorities in the countries placed on the trafficking routes of trafficking in persons, respectively **the transit or exploitation states**, implementing joint projects and operations, permanent exchange of data and information in specific cases, to identify situations of exploitation of victims of trafficking, Romanian citizens.

In the matter of extradition, during the year 2018, 4 active extraditions were formulated and an extradition request was received from another state¹².

In the year 2018, there were requests regarding the data and information exchange on trafficking in persons cases¹³. Most requests were registered in relation to the UK (1226 offenses), Germany (418 offenses) and Spain (265), the same as in the last three years.

Sentencing the traffickers

The Superior Council of Magistracy states that the total number of persons permanently convicted, in 2018, by the Romanian courts, for human trafficking offenses was 130. The judge invested with solving the case is independent and appreciates the evidence within the limits of the law and according to his own belief and, in order to have a conviction, the judge must take into account the principle of humanism, the proportionality between the seriousness of the crime committed, the degree of involvement of each defendant in the respective criminal activity and in the production of socially dangerous prosecution. Therefore, not every person sued for committing a crime of human trafficking (regardless of the form of criminal participation in the crime) is automatically sentenced to a prison sentence.

Figure 4 shows the 2010-2018 dynamics of convictions (convicted persons) and the multiannual average of convictions.

¹¹ Source: DCCO, 2019.

¹² Art. 210 of the Criminal Code (CC) – Trafficking in persons, art. 211 CC – Trafficking in Minors, Art. 216 CC – use the serviced of an exploited person, art. 217 – sanctioning the attempt, as well as art. 12 and art. 13 of Law no. 678/2001 on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons.

¹³ Source: CCPI, 2019.

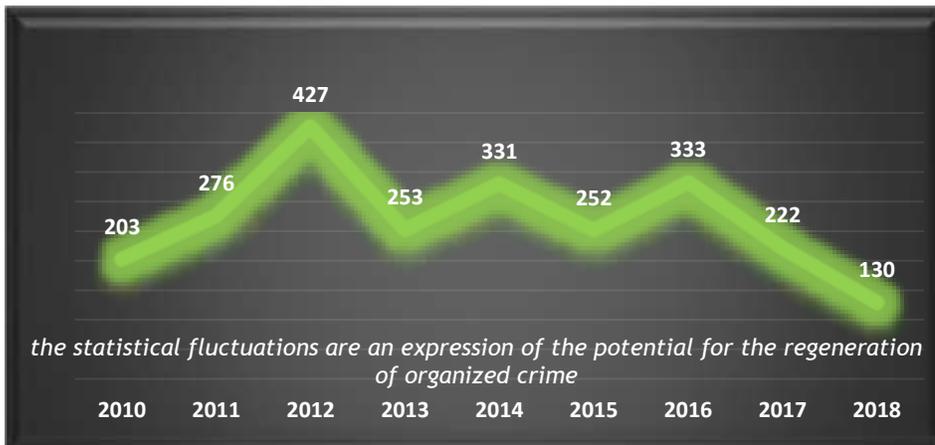


Figure 4. 2010-2018 Dynamics of conviction: 269 convicted/ year

Figure 5 shows the situation of definitive convictions, with detention penalties, in 2018, and Figure 6 shows the situation of definitive convictions, for trafficking in persons (including minors), in the same year, 2018.

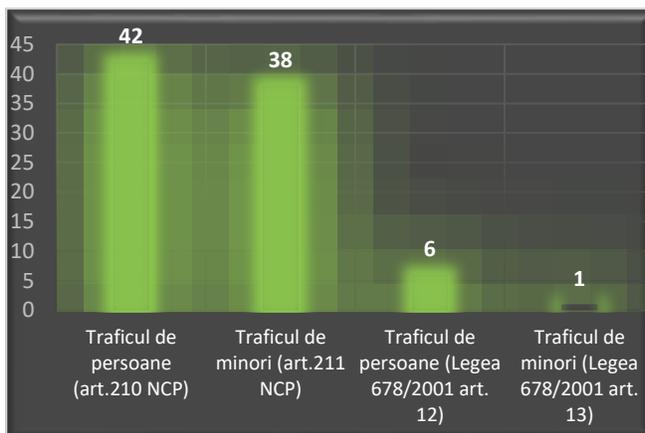


Figure 5. Detention penalties – definitive convictions, 2018.

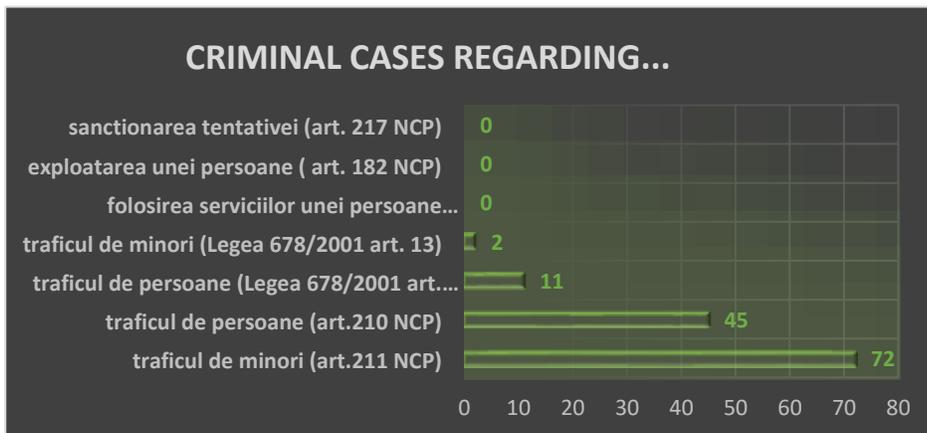
According to the criminal procedural provisions, as well as some texts of the special laws, there are causes for reducing the penalty limits, whose application is mandatory (e.g. art. 367 para. 5 Criminal Code, Art. 15 of GEO no. 78 / 2016, art.19 of Law no. 682/2002

republished, on witness protection, the agreement for the recognition of guilt, regulated by the provisions of art. 478-488 Criminal Procedural Code, the admission of the accusation, regulated by the provisions of art. 375 -377 Criminal Procedural Code and art. 396 para 10 Criminal Procedural Code).

Moreover, the offenses of trafficking in persons and trafficking in minors are incriminated by the provisions of art. 210 and art. 211 of the Criminal Code, which provide for

prison sentences from 3 to 10 years, for the simple form and the prohibition of some rights, and respectively from 5 to 12 years and the prohibition of some rights, for the aggravated form of the crimes. These incriminating texts represent *the transposition into national law of the provisions of Directive 2011/36 / EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims*.

Figure 6. Final convictions for human trafficking (including minors), 2018.



A very important observation for understanding the dynamics of convictions is that, from a criminal point of view, over 20% of the cases investigated in the last years deal with the crime of pimping and not of human trafficking, generating a statistical decrease in the cases of trafficking in human beings *per se*, despite the same efforts and resources used by the anti-trafficking structures to document the criminal activity of these groups, efforts that are not reflected in the statistics.

Victim Identification, Protection and Assistance

The national database on victims of human trafficking¹⁴ records all reported human trafficking cases, whether there are victims identified and/ or referred by public institutions, according to the MNIR (law enforcement authorities, prosecuting and criminal investigation bodies, diplomatic missions and consular offices, citizens, inspectors of the territorial labor services, personnel from hospitals or other health units, school institutions, churches or community, etc.), or by the IOs, NGOs or any other natural or legal person.

¹⁴ The database is run by ANITP.

The need to find a solution regarding a better implementation of the process of identifying victims of human trafficking and of the measures taken in the activities of identification, repatriation and establishment of the risk of each case has become more and more pressing. In response, ANITP has started the implementation of the project “*Trafficking in persons - a victim-centered approach*”.

Based on the reported shortcomings and on the information collected within the working groups, a set of practical tools¹⁵ for the implementation of the MNIR was developed, which helps the specialists involved in the identification and referral of victims of trafficking in persons. This improved version reorganizes and complements the information within the existing MNIR and clarifies the issues that often led to confusion, introducing obstacles in taking the best measures in given situations.

Procedures regarding the risk assessment and the special needs of assistance and protection of the victims, the assisted voluntary repatriation, were created and introduced in the MNIR, the granting the recovery and reflection period was regulated, but there were also improved procedures or aspects such as the identification procedure or indicators to identify victims of human trafficking. Also, tools for implementing the processes described in the procedures were elaborated, notions such as the potential victim, the presumed victim, the identified victim, the detection or identification of the victim of human trafficking were clarified and clear tasks regarding the various actors involved in the anti-trafficking fight were established.

The victims registered in MNIR, in 2018, have received services adapted to their individual needs, as they were established in the assistance plans, given that the assistance services¹⁶ are provided to the victims based on their informed and freely expressed consent, as well as giving up assistance being still an option of the victim.

The following table shows the situation of assistance provided to victims of human trafficking by public institutions, non-governmental organizations and in public-private partnership, in 2018.

¹⁵ The procedure for editing and printing the MNIR project was initiated, for a total of 2850 Romanian copies, respectively 150 English copies, and for editing and printing of 1500 brochures on the Procedure for identifying victims of trafficking in persons, Procedure for assessing the risks and special needs of assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in persons, respectively Procedure for assisted voluntary repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons.

¹⁶ The services provided to victims, as the case may be, by public institutions, NGOs, or in public-private partnership: accommodation, in assistance centers for victims of human trafficking or in other types of residential centers; medical assistance; psychological counseling; financial aid; material aid (clothing, medicines, food, hygienic products); legal advice/ assistance; school reintegration; professional counseling; professional retraining; labor reintegration.

¹⁷ Assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons recorded in MNIR in 2018					
Types of assistance	Total victims	Age and gender distribution			
		MINORS		ADULTS	
		female	male	female	male
Assisted victims	236	112	25	69	30
Assistance provided by public institutions	133	90	15	21	7
Assistance provided by NGOs	70	11	6	36	17
Assistance provided in public-private partnership	33	11	4	12	6

Protection and assistance services have been provided to victims of human trafficking, either in the governmental/ public centers for assistance and protection of VoTs, or in the centers or shelters of non-governmental organizations, or in public-NGO partnership.

The options regarding the services provided to victims are individualized, in each particular case, according to the needs and the situation of each victim. Whenever necessary, local authorities and NGOs identify the most favorable opportunity for hosting and assisting each victim. The assistance sought to ensure the conditions for normalizing the lives of the victims, with the mention that the Romanian legislation and social practice do not discriminate, in providing assistance services for victims of human trafficking, on the basis of citizenship. Foreign citizens, victims of trafficking, benefit from the same assistance services as Romanian citizens.

Another necessary observation is that there is no legal conditioning of the protection and assistance provided to the victims, determined by the time or the participation of the victims in the criminal process or by their collaboration with the judicial authorities.

The Victim Witness Coordination Program¹⁸ guarantees the necessary support, in the event that the victims choose to be parties in the criminal trials. *The Program* was carried out to guarantee the victims the necessary support, in case they choose to acquire legal standing, in the criminal cases against the traffickers¹⁹.

Together with the persons identified in previous years, another 349 victims identified in 2018 benefited from different services, within this program, the total number of victims who received support, in this context, between January and December 2018 being 738.

¹⁷ Source: ANITP.

¹⁸ The Program is based on the cooperation between ANITP, the Public Ministry (DIICOT), the Ministry of Justice, through the courts and the Probation Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Romanian Gendarmerie, Police and Border Police and the General Inspectorate for Immigration. The Program has as a target group all victims of trafficking who choose to be parties in trial and who are not involved in a witness protection program. Participation in the program is voluntary.

¹⁹ Source: ANITP.

Victims of trafficking, Romanian citizens, identified in other states, by the responsible authorities of those countries, benefit from the support of the Romanian authorities for returning to the country and for referral to the best programs and services adapted to their personal needs.

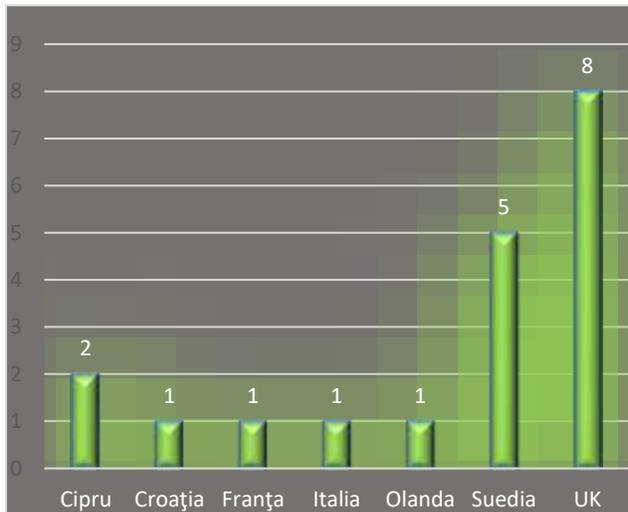


Figure 7. Repatriated victims in 2018

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons

In 2018, the actions to prevent trafficking in persons followed the provisions of the national strategic documents (the 2018-2022 SNITP, the 2018-2020 National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2018-2022 SNITP, the 2015-2020 National Strategy for Public Order and Safety, etc.).

The central purpose of the activities to prevent human trafficking was to disseminate useful information for reducing risks and managing vulnerabilities to the target groups.

The national and local human trafficking prevention campaigns focused on the main types of exploitation, targeting the public from the physical environment, as well as the online public, users of social networks. These campaigns, initiated and implemented together with the institutional and organizational partners, have been adapted, as in previous years, both to the local and regional traits of trafficking, as well as to the different types of exploitation, permanently taking into account the particularities of the groups targeted by the anti-trafficking message.

All preventive actions were carried out in cooperation with institutions and organizations involved in the fight against trafficking in persons.

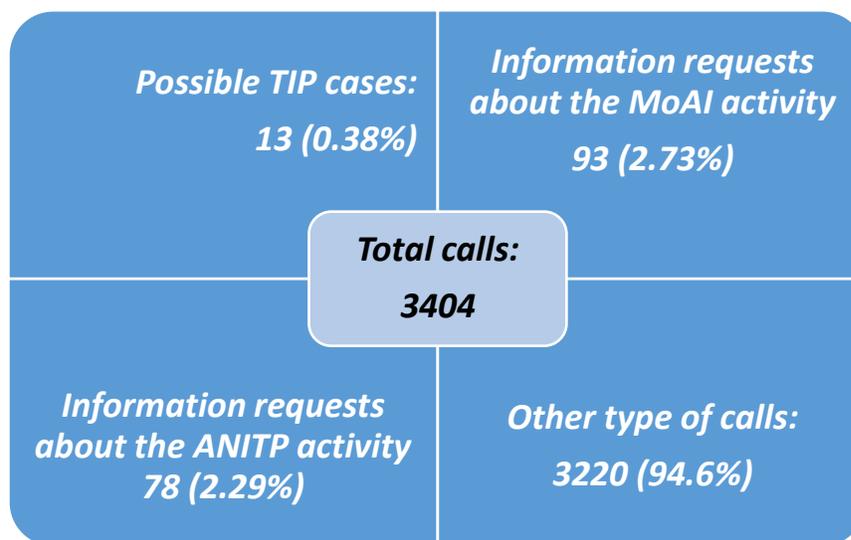
The 0800.800.678 Anti-trafficking HELPLine

HELPLine Services:

- have a preventive character²⁰ and are provided to callers, with the aim to reduce his/her vulnerability from an informational point of view;
- activities specific to the mechanism of identification and referral of victims of human trafficking to their assistance and protection system are carried out;

Between January 1st and December 31st 2018, the HELPLine specialists received 3,404 calls, out of which 13 represented possible cases of trafficking, these being referred, for solution, to the competent institutions. Compared to 2017, there is a quantitative increase in the number of calls, as well as information requests and notifications of possible trafficking cases.

Figure 9. Calls received between
01.01-31.12.2018



²⁰ For example, informing the public about self-protection measures (the conditions of a valid employment contract, the average salary in the country of destination, recruitment types, the risks of human trafficking, etc.), about the characteristics of human trafficking (causes and conditions which generate human trafficking, victim profile, trafficker profile, categories of persons with high level of vulnerability to trafficking, etc.).

Public policies, expert training

The National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons, for the period 2018-2022 and the National Action Plan 2018-2020 for the implementation of the Strategy were approved through the G.O. no. 861/31 October 2018. As a whole, the strategy aims to reduce the impact and dimensions of trafficking in persons, at national level, by prioritizing and streamlining activities in the fight against it. The general objectives to be pursued for this purpose are:

1. Strengthening and diversifying the measures to prevent trafficking in persons;
2. Improving the quality of protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons for their social reintegration
3. Developing the capacity to investigate crimes of trafficking in persons and trafficking in minors
4. Increasing the quality of disseminated information regarding the phenomenon of trafficking in persons
5. Developing and extending the cooperation process between the national and international relevant actors involved in the fight against human trafficking, as well as increasing the diplomatic efforts to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect the Romanian citizens in the countries of destination.

In 2019, through the G.D. no 861, **the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the Strategy (MC)** shall be set up, made up of representatives at the decision-making level of the institutions involved (secretary of state, inspector general, director). The MC will be coordinated by a state secretary from the Ministry of Internal Affairs²¹. The secretariat of the Committee will be provided by ANITP. Therefore, the MC will have the main role in **coordinating** the public actions against trafficking in persons.

²¹ In order to ensure that relevant, complete and unitary information is obtained, the Committee will appoint a **monitoring team** made up of representatives, at expert level, of the involved institutions that will elaborate monitoring questionnaires and will conduct evaluation visits. The reports of the monitoring team will highlight the progress made in achieving the objectives of the National Strategy and, as the case may be, the reasons for the partial or non-fulfillment of the objectives and will include conclusions and recommendations regarding possible measures to improve the implementation process, respectively proposals for improvement/ revision of the proposed objectives, proposals for solutions to solve certain situations, or necessary measures for a better evolution of the indicators. As part of the monitoring and evaluation process, the Committee will analyze how the tasks undertaken by each institution will be carried out and will establish the measures that are required to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.

It is established by the same normative act that ANITP is the “specialized structure in the field of prevention, monitoring and evaluation of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons in Romania. At the same time, according to G.D. no. 84/2018 for amending and completing the G. D. no. 460/2011 regarding the organization and functioning of the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, the Agency evaluates and monitors, at national level, the activity carried out in the field of fighting against trafficking in persons by public institutions and non-governmental organizations, fulfilling the role of National Rapporteur.