

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
ASSOCIATION PRO REFUGIU**

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FOREWORD

Through this report Association Pro Refugiu would like to present the positive results obtained during 2014.

The organization carried out various projects, activities focused on victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees support, as well as preparing professionals to provide assistance in accordance with the international standards. We continued our work in order to provide specialized legal, psychological and social assistance to high professional standards. At a strategic level a great importance was given to the identification and implementation of sustainable solutions for improving these services.

Human trafficking is a complex phenomenon with severe consequences for its victims that need a complex range of services during the rehabilitation process. Asylum seekers and refugees face many times extreme hardship and uncertainty about the future due to the complexity and lengthy process to obtain a form of protection and after that to integrate in society. In 2014, as in the previous years, we continued our work to promote, protect the rights of these vulnerable target groups.

With this occasion we would like also to thank our collaborators, partners, donors which during 2014 have supported our efforts to implement successfully all the projects, activities for the benefit of the target groups.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Association Pro Refugiu is a non-governmental organization with headquarter in Bucharest, Romania, formed in early 2011 from the initiative of a group of specialists in assisting victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers and refugees.

Since its beginning the organization followed a work philosophy based on protection and promotion of the rights of the human trafficking victims, asylum seekers and refugees according to the national and international legislation, and also, to manage the problems that these persons face.

The Objectives considered since the time of formation are:

1. Help to combat the human trafficking phenomenon, illegal migration.
2. Identify the needs, problems of the human trafficking victims, asylum seekers and refugees.
3. Development of special programs of legal, psychological and social assistance at the highest professional standards for the target groups benefit.
4. Advocacy and lobby to improve the legislation and practice in the field of protection for the victims of human trafficking, migration, asylum procedure in Romania.

The fundamental values are:

1. Respect for human rights.
2. Holistic approach (bottom up) of the human trafficking, migration phenomenon and cooperation at national and international level.
3. Tolerance.
4. Equality.
5. Trust.

• STEERING COMMITTEE

President
Vice-President
Secretary

• ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking is a complex problem that manifests itself in a national, European and largely international context. If human traffic for many people is just a topic for debate and conferences, for us the phenomenon is a daily reality.

For each beneficiary we need to reinvent a bit, because each one is unique in his/her way, even if often they have gone through similar histories. But what gives us the power and strength to continue to work are the successes of reintegrating these people in society.

Legal Counselling and Assistance

Information and guidance regarding victims' legal situation.

Support for requesting the "reflection period" if there are indications of trafficking.

Legal assistance in front of competent authorities (police, prosecutor, courts) to guarantee that victims can effectively exercise their rights during the access to the justice system.

Social Counselling and Assistance

Information, advice about the process of social and occupational reintegration in society.

Guidance on the job market.

Support for access to education and training.

Psychological Counselling

Psychological evaluations and counselling, psychotherapy in order to help the victims to overstep the trauma suffered as result of the exploitation to which they were subjected.

Staff / Collaborators

10 lawyers 3 social workers 3 psychologists

In 2014 a total number of 75 victims of human trafficking received counselling and assistance.

• ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

The Romanian asylum process and the integration one are complex and frequent changes to legislation can make it a difficult system to be understood. Asylum seekers, refugees are some of the most vulnerable people in society and that is way is relevant to receive help to navigate the process.

Legal Counselling and Assistance

Information concerning rights and obligations for asylum seekers and refugees as stipulated in the legislation.

Legal assistance and representation for asylum seekers during the entire procedure (administrative and court phases).

Support in obtaining travel and residence documents for refugees.

Social Counselling and Assistance

Support for learning Romanian language by organizing periodic language courses for asylum seekers and refugees.

Counselling for access to education and to the job market.

Cultural and recreational activities (cultural orientation sessions, visits to museums, drawing and paintings, artistic and documentary film projections).

Psychological Counselling

Individual and group psychological sessions.

Psychological evaluations.

Psychotherapy in order to help asylum seekers and refugees to overstep the trauma suffered as result of the inhuman treatments to which they were subjected in the origin countries.

Staff /Collaborators

6 lawyers 3 social workers 3 psychologists 2 cultural mediators

In 2014 a total number of 157 asylum seekers, refugees received counselling and assistance.

• CONTINUOUS VOCATIONAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Optimizing the assistance services provided for the benefit of the target groups is a goal to which the organization attaches importance. In order to improve the quality of the provided services, it is required a consolidation of the capacities of the professional groups (lawyers, psychologists, social workers) who provide these services. The consolidation of their professional capacities is achieved through involvement, participation in trainings, workshops, exchange of best practices at national and international level.

Staff / Collaborators

3 trainers

• RESEARCH AND LOBBY DEPARTMENT

Aims to research and monitor the phenomenon of human trafficking and migration. Other specific activities include the development of practical recommendations meant to improve the legal provisions in the field; the collection of information on best practices. The results of the researches are used to influence key areas of government policy and legislation, in order to improve the target groups' rights.

Staff/ Collaborators

2 researchers

• FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

Within the department, the accounting qualified personnel prepare the annual budget, performs the financial management of grants, records the financial operations and prepare financial reports.

Staff /Collaborators

2 Financial Managers

PROJECTS

The organization implemented various projects for the benefit of its target groups, organized raising awareness campaigns concerning human trafficking phenomenon, continued to collaborate with national stakeholders, foreign organizations.

PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS IN BULGARIA, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA WITH EMPHASIS ON LEGAL SUPPORT – A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Starting with January 2013 Association Pro Refugiu implements as co-beneficiary the transnational project alongside Netherlands Helsinki Committee (the coordinator organization), Human Rights League Slovakia, Animus Bulgaria, Caritas Ruse Bulgaria and Adpare Association Romania. The project is financed by the European Commission through its Program Prevention of and Fight against Crime and will finish at the end of December 2015. Total budget of the project is of 779.130 Euro.

The project is aimed at:

- Increasing knowledge of lawyers and social workers about human trafficking, its impact and the legal rights of trafficked persons.
- Create a national network of lawyers and social workers specialized in assisting victims of human trafficking in accordance with the international and national standards.
- Enhancing victims' access to legal counseling, assistance during criminal and other legal proceedings, the specialized legal services being provided through the lawyers trained during the project.
- Increasing the capacity of NGOs and social workers to provide legal information and counseling to the victims of human trafficking.
- Enhancing the capacity of NGOs to effectively advocate for the protection and promotion of the rights of trafficked persons as victims and witnesses of a serious crime and human rights violation.

Project's Activities undertaken by the Association Pro Refugiu in 2014

Monitoring and supervision meetings with the social workers. During the project's previous year, the NGO trained 20 social workers from General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection and from various Romanian non-governmental organizations in order to specialize them in providing a proper assistance for the victims of human trafficking during the rehabilitation process.

The 20 social workers trained formed a national network, its activity being monitored by the Association Pro Refugiu. During 2014 various monitoring and supervision meetings took place between the NGO specialists and the social workers, discussions being focused on how assistance for victims is provided, challenges/obstacles faced and overstepped, identification of best practices.

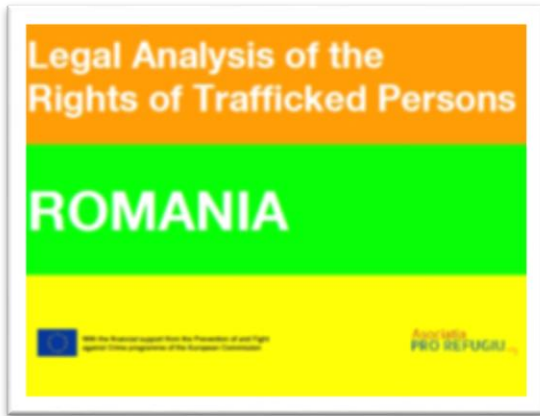


Launching the national report Legal Analysis of the Rights of Trafficked Persons in Romania.

The national report was developed based on a detailed research started in 2013 by Association Pro Refugiu. The report presents statistics related to human trafficking phenomenon in Romania (internal and cross-border trafficking); analysis of the legal provisions from the Criminal Code on trafficking in human beings and related practices as well as their implementation in practice, pinpoints a number of attached legal and practical problems; presents in detail the obstacles encountered by victims in accessing legal assistance; presents the rights of victims as derived from international and European instruments. The report contains also the analysis of several interviews with victims of human trafficking which had as purpose to record their experience with different law enforcement stakeholders, with the criminal justice system. At the end of the report several recommendations are inserted to improve the actual legal framework and victims' access to the rights to which they are entitled.

The launching of the report took place in September 2014. It provides a detailed legal analysis of the position of trafficked persons in criminal and other relevant legal proceedings, the way in which they are treated by the judicial system, in particular the access to legal aid and the protection of the rights as victims and witnesses.

A conference was organized in Bucharest to which attended various national stakeholders with active competence in fight against human trafficking and victims assistance (National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Justice, General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, International Organization for Migration-Bucharest Office, Romanian General Inspectorate for Police, Superior Council for Magistracy, NGOs). As part of the event a roundtable was also organized, a good opportunity for participants at the event to discuss based on the national research findings, the difficulties victims of human trafficking face in accessing legal assistance, recommendations to improve the legal framework and practices related to the protection of victims' rights.



Training for students was organized by Association Pro Refugiu between 30-31 October 2014. Students from public and private Law Faculties were selected to be trained in order to increase their knowledge on the legal concepts related to human trafficking phenomenon and victims' rights as presented in the national and international legislation. The trained students will be implicated actively in monitoring court sessions with respect to the treatment of the victim/witnesses concerned and the protection of their rights and interests. Students' activity is coordinated, supervised by the Association Pro Refugiu experienced lawyers.



Training for lawyers was also an important activity undertaken in 2014 by the Association Pro Refugiu as part of the transnational project. The event took place between 21-23 November 2014 in Brasov city. The training was organized by the Association Pro Refugiu in partnership with its Romanian partner organization and with the project's coordinator Netherlands Helsinki Committee. The Romanian and Dutch trainers were experienced lawyers, judges, international experts with solid legal background in the field of protection, promotion of victims' rights and their assistance.

22 lawyers were selected and attended the training. The subjects approached during the training consisted in definition of trafficking (as presented in the international/EU/national legislation); myths & realities of trafficking in Romania; communication lawyer-victim; psychological & health impact; rights of victims; preparation court hearing; secondary victimization; financial compensation; specific regulations on children and foreign victims; national mechanism for identification and referral of trafficked persons & available victim services.

The training objective was to specialize lawyers in providing proper legal aid for victims of human trafficking during the legal procedures. The specialization process will continue during the entire project's duration with further expert meetings to which the already trained lawyers will attend alongside Romanian and Dutch experts. The lawyers will become part of a sustainable national network of legal professionals capable to properly assist victims during criminal and other relevant legal proceedings.



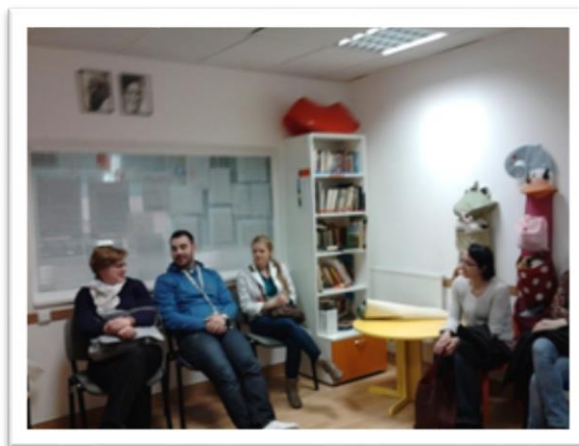
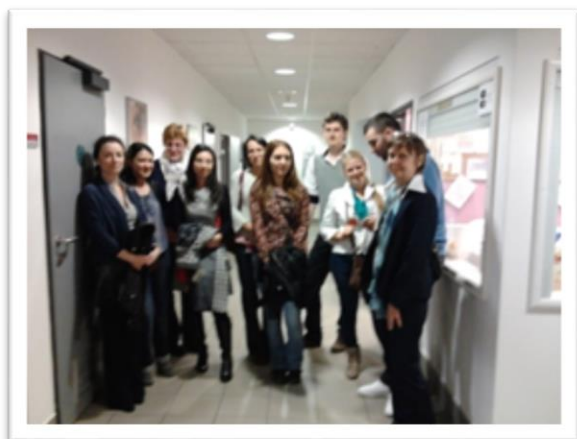


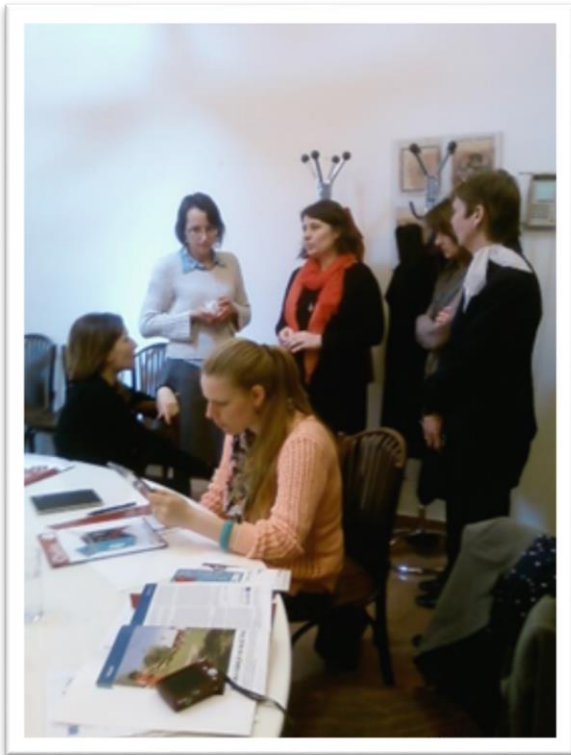
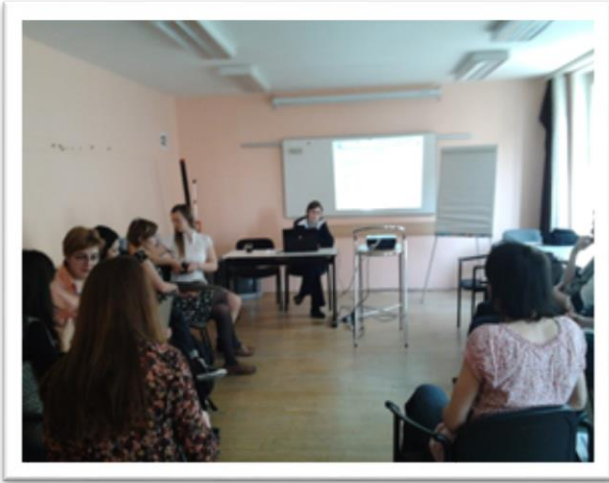
COACHING –INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES

Association Pro Refugiu is the project's coordinator, having as partners Caritas Prague Czech Republic and Human Rights League Slovakia. It is implemented with the financial support of the European Commission, Grundtvig Program, Learning Partnerships. The project started in 2013 and it will finish in August 2015. Total budget of the project is of 42.600 Euro.

Its objectives are 1. Improving quality of counselling and assistance for the refugees by strengthening professionals' skills of NGOs and institutions staff having as attribution support the refugees during their integration process in the society of the countries where they obtained the form of protection. 2. Increase level of transnational collaboration among professionals supporting the refugees in Romania, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

During 2014 Association Pro Refugiu was actively involved in **study visits in Czech Republic and Slovakia**. The study visits offered detailed insights on how each country system works for the refugees' integration. Partners were able to understand what methods/techniques, procedures are used in each country, exchanged information, identified best practices. With the occasion of the study visits participants from all 3 project's countries met officials from Immigration authority; representatives of other Romanian, Czech and Slovakian organizations active in the field of supporting refugees; visited reception and accommodation centres for asylum seekers and refugees.





In 2014 Association Pro Refugiu in collaboration with its Czech and Slovakian partners developed a **Coaching Manual – Innovative Approach for Better Integration of Refugees**. The manual is designed to provide professionals working already with refugees as social and legal counsellors, psychologists, cultural mediators with a practical, enjoyable way to learn about coaching and how they can use it to help refugees. They will find clearly marked sections, together with exercises, examples that will help to develop the skills, perspectives and beliefs that a good coach need to have. The manual will be distributed to professionals in all 3 countries and also used during the seminars that will take place during the project.



CHANCE AND CHALLENGE-IMPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Association Pro Refugiu, as coordinator, is implementing this project alongside its Norwegian and Romanian partners, with the financial support of the NGO Fund in Romania, EEA Grants. Period of implementation May 2014 – March 2016. Total budget of the project is of 132.174 Euro.

Project's main objective consists in improving the provision of social services for victims of human trafficking in Romania based on the Norwegian model of support, assistance.

Activities

1. Mapping social needs and types of services provided to victims of human trafficking by NGOs and institutions in Romania and Norway.
2. Trainings in Norway and Romania for the Romanian professionals working in NGOs and institutions to improve the counselling and assistance provided to victims of human trafficking.
3. Develop and promote a Norwegian-Romanian referral system regarding Romanian citizens subjected to human trafficking phenomenon in Norway.
4. Social and legal counselling, assistance for victims of human trafficking.

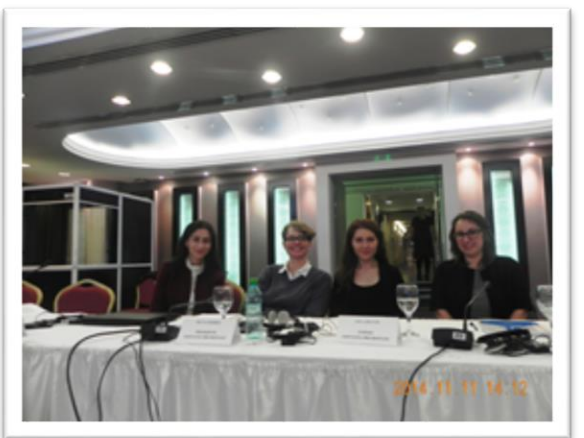
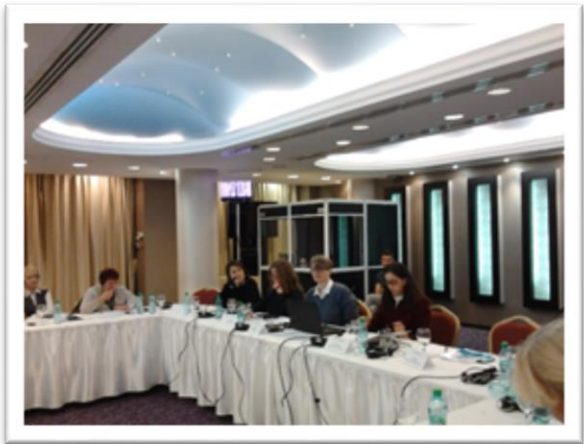
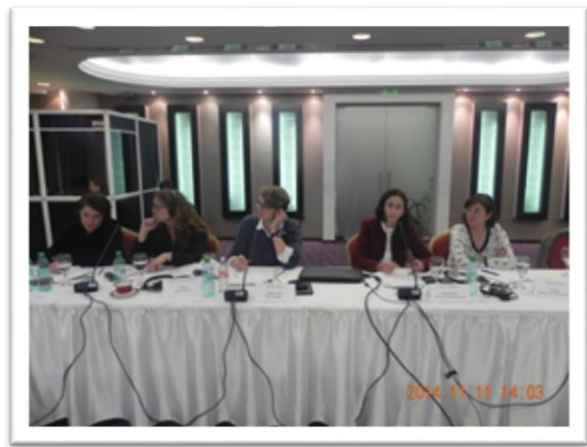
In 2014 Association Pro Refugiu alongside its Norwegian partner, Pro Sentret Organization, was involved in a transnational research upon the services provided to victims of human trafficking in Romania and Norway. The purpose of the research was to have a detailed image of the problems faced by the victims in accessing the assistance services in Romania and to learn more on how the Norwegian assistance system is functioning in order to identify best practices that can be transferred, adapted in the Romanian system as well.

A Romanian-Norwegian transnational report was developed.



Considering its sensitive topic, achieving the report was not an easy task. The aim has been to describe the current situation in the two countries of human trafficking and the support system offered to victims of human trafficking. This knowledge will be used as a starting point to create best practices in this area. The study is based on a qualitative and quantitative methodology focused on two components: Desk research - analysis of relevant legislation and documents from Romania and Norway. Data collecting through questionnaires, interviews with authorities, non-governmental organizations that provide assistance to victims in the two countries. The report consists of 5 chapters: *Chapter I Statistics* provides detailed information on the number of victims of human trafficking, their forms of exploitation in Romania and Norway in 2012-2014. *Chapter II Legislation on protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking* includes information on key legislation in the two countries that contain relevant regulations on the support services that victims should have the right to, during the rehabilitation/reintegration into society. *Chapter III Support services for the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking* comprises a detailed analysis of the support services that are provided in practice by the authorities and non-governmental organizations in the two countries. *Chapter IV Case management* in Romania and Norway. *Chapter V Recommendations for improving the support services for victims of human trafficking*.

The Report was launched on 11 November 2014 in Bucharest. To the event attended the Norwegian and Romanian project's partners alongside other stakeholders (National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Justice-Probation Directorate, National Agency for Child Protection, General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection, Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration, NGOs, Bucharest Bar lawyers, Romanian Grant Administrator of the NGOs Fund Civil Society Development Foundation).



Beside the presentation of the report, discussions were based on how assistance services in Romania can be improved, as well as transnational collaboration among stakeholders from origin and destination countries where Romanian citizens are subjected to various forms of exploitation.

Further activities that will be implemented in the next project's year will consist in creating an online platform for Romanian-Norwegian professionals to communicate exchanging best practices in relation with the cases assisted; study visit in Norway, trainings in Norway and Romania, development of the referral system, victims assistance services.

CHANCE AND CHALLENGE-IMPROVE THE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Association Pro Refugiu is the coordinator organization, having as partners Association Trabe Spain and Caritas Prague. The project is implemented between September 2014 – August 2016 with the financial support of the European Commission, Erasmus + Program, Strategic Partnerships. Total budget is of 133.174 Euro.

The project aims at strengthening the knowledge level of professionals, by developing innovative support programs and teaching them how to use in the daily work activity with children and youth victims of human trafficking; enhance the cross-border cooperation among professionals from origin-transit-destination countries where children and youth are subjected to various forms of exploitation; improve quality of life, the reintegration process of children and youth victims of human trafficking by receiving support at a high standard level from specialized professionals in providing assistance using innovative support programs. Activities will consist in trainings, seminars in Romania, Spain and Czech Republic for professionals (social workers, legal counsellors, psychologists) assisting victims of human trafficking in order to specialize them in using in the daily work peer to peer methods, coaching techniques that can support better the rehabilitation process of children and youth victims of human trafficking. During 2014 Association Pro Refugiu started the development of an online platform for specialists working with victims, an IT tool meant to support a sustainable transnational communication.

MAXIMIZING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 5 SATELLITE CITIES IN TURKEY – FROM WEST TO EAST

Association Pro Refugiu is co-beneficiary in this project having as period of implementation November 2014 – October 2016. The coordinator is the Human Resource Development Foundation, a Turkish NGO. The project is implemented with the financial support of the Program Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey-III, Political Criteria Grant Scheme (CSD-III/PC). Total budget of the project is of 150.000 Euro.

The main objective of the project consists in improving the asylum system in Turkey based on transfer of knowledge and best practices with organizations from EU which have active role in the protection of the asylum seekers' rights.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Besides the projects implemented Association Pro Refugiu continued to organize raising awareness campaigns for children in order to learn about the negative implications human trafficking phenomenon have and how to protect themselves not to become victims. The information campaign took place in several high-schools from 5 Romanian counties having as target group minors with ages between 14-17 years old.



Throughout 2014 Pro Refugiu Association specialized staff participated in several relevant events.

1. *Combating Human Trafficking Working Group Meeting*, Committee on European Affairs, Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Parliament, 17 December 2014, Bucharest.
2. *Together against human trafficking-challenges and practical lessons*, 10 December 2014, Bucharest, Romania. Conference organized by the European Center for Legal Education and Research with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation Romania Office, Romanian-American University.



3. *Civil Society Forum in Central and Eastern Europe*, 27-28 November 2014, Bucharest, Romania. Organized by Civil Society Development Foundation, within the framework of the NGO Fund Program in Romania, part of the EEA grants 2009 – 2014. During the two-days conference existential problems of the societies from the region were discussed, good governance and corruption, rise of populism and extremism, revival of civic movements and tension between economic recovery and environmental issues.
4. *Working Group concerning Romania response to the Evaluation Process made by GRETA on the implementation of Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings*, November 2014. Organized by the Romanian National Agency against Trafficking in Persons.
5. *Credibility Assessment in Asylum Claims*, 5-7 May 2014, Madrid, Spain. European Council for Refugees and Exiles Course.

PARTNERS

Being aware of the fact that international, regional cooperation is essential for exchange of information, good practices, Association Pro Refugiu continued also in 2014 to maintain a sustainable collaboration with various organizations, institutions at national and international level. Some of the organizations, authorities mentioned are partners in the projects implemented by Association Pro Refugiu and with others the NGO had concluded several collaboration protocols having as main objective exchange of information, best practices in relation with the assistance of asylum seekers, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS	NATIONAL PARTNERS
<p>Netherlands Helsinki Committee. Pro Sentret Norway. Human Rights League Slovakia. Caritas Prague Czech Republic. Animus Foundation Bulgaria. Association TRABE- Iniciativas para la Economia Social y Solidaria, Spain. Portuguese Association for Victim Support. Human Rights Defense Centre, Greece. Greek Council for Refugees. Human Resource Development Foundation Turkey. Group 484 Organization Serbia.</p>	<p>National Agency Against Traffic in Persons. Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration. National Agency for Community Programs for Education and Professional Development. Nicolae Titulescu University, Law Faculty. Bucharest University, Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance. Association Betania. Foundation People to People. Association Global Help. Association Generatie Tanara. East European Institute for Reproductive Health. General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection from the Romanian counties Bacau, Dambovita, Galati, Iasi, Mures, Salaj, Satu-Mare, Sibiu, Teleorman.</p>
<p>NETWORKS Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women. Child Rights International Network.</p>	

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME 2014

204.573 ROMANIAN LEI

EXPENDITURES 2014

195.264 ROMANIAN LEI

CONTACT INFORMATION

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