

EUROPE

THE PROBLEM

TRAFFICKING

Nearly 2 million people are enslaved in Europe; a source, transit and destination region for trafficking people in vulnerable circumstances into labor and sexual exploitation.

Many in Europe have fallen victim to trafficking in persons due to a fragmented, individualized criminal justice response. Traffickers profit from the trade of humans with relative impunity as law enforcement across the region struggle to unify efforts to combat trafficking across borders.

Alongside our partners, IJM has launched an anti-trafficking program with the aim of building a cohesive, cross-border regional response. The longterm goal of the program is to protect 12 million people who would be vulnerable to trafficking from Romania, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria.

IJM EUROPEAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRESS SINCE 2019



390+

Labor inspectors, police officers and others trained to respond to human trafficking



90+

Victims of trafficking relieved



20+

Traffickers convicted

THE FACTS



Romania consistently ranks in the **top three** European countries for the highest number of identified victims of trafficking each year.¹

Only 48% of confirmed trafficking victims in Romania received assistance in 2018.²

The number of victims of trafficking in Europe **grew by more than 45%** from 2016 to 2018.³

90% of the more than 5 million Ukrainian refugees who have fled to Europe are women and children, making protection a critical part of the response in order to prevent trafficking.⁴

¹Global Slavery Index, ²Eurostat, ³US TIP Report, UNHCR

****Stock image of an actor used with permission, not a survivor of trafficking**



“Human trafficking can be found in all modern societies, whether we are talking about Romania or other Western states. Therefore, coordinating our efforts is the only scenario that makes us stronger, braver, more informed and united, so that human trafficking networks themselves become vulnerable. No government can deal with human trafficking alone. We all have a responsibility in this regard.”

Alina Ștefania Gorghiu, Acting President of the Senate of Romania

Angela's* Story

Angela*, 24 years old, lived in a small home shared by her parents, her 2 children, her sister-in-law and sister's child in Romania. She had been married young, experiencing physical and verbal abuse which made her a vulnerable target to traffickers. In the spring of 2020, Angela met Robert* online through her cousin. He took a common approach of developing a romantic relationship with her, with the ultimate goal being to traffic her for commercial sexual exploitation in the UK. During their two weeks together, Robert spoke on the phone with Angela's parents and assured them that he had good intentions, loved her and planned to marry her.

When they got to the UK, Angela was taken to a house where she would be forced to engage in commercial sexual exploitation. Scared and betrayed, she decided to run away as soon as possible. Fortunately, the room she was in had access to a balcony, and she was able to jump into the yard. From there, she reached the main street and asked passersby to call the police. Due to her descriptions of the area where the house was located, the police managed to find and arrest the suspect. The case was referred to IJM Romania, and Angela has been receiving psychosocial support ever since.

*A pseudonym

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IJM EUROPEAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM MILESTONES

2019 – IJM Romania opens

2020 – Agreement signed to work with Romanian Government's Trafficking Agency (ANITP), Public Prosecutor's Office (DIICOT) and Anti Trafficking Police Department (DCCO)

2021-2022 – Liaison officers hired in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands to improve cross-border cooperation

2023 – IJM organizes an international conference on trafficking in Europe alongside the Romanian government

CASEWORK SUBTYPES

Labor trafficking: A form of modern slavery that uses deception, threats or violence to coerce someone to work for little to no pay

Sex trafficking: A form of modern slavery in which someone deceives and sexually exploits another person for a profit



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