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PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCHING CONFERENCES ROMANIA AND BULGARIA



Association Pro Refugiu and Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation organized two launching conferences on 30 September 2016 in Bucharest Romania and on 28 October 2016 in Sofia Bulgaria. The events were organized as part of the transnational project *Strengthening lawyers legal knowledge and cooperation with prosecutors and judges, to protect victims of human trafficking rights in the judicial proceedings*, JUST/2015/JTRA/AG/EJTR/8686. The project is coordinated by Association Pro Refugiu in partnership with Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, ECPAT Germany, KOK German NGO network against trafficking in human beings, Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers.

The project's main objectives are: to strengthen Romanian and Bulgarian lawyers legal knowledge, cooperation with prosecutors and judges to protect victims of human trafficking rights in the judicial proceedings according with EU and national legal framework; enhance knowledge on different legal systems among EU member states -Romania-Bulgaria-Germany – Sweden.

At the launching conferences attended stakeholders with active role in fight against human trafficking, victims' assistance, rights protection such as: National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, Local Bars, Public Ministry – Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, National Institute of Magistracy, Ombudsman, local NGOs.

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The events objectives consisted in making known the project from its early implementation phases; raise awareness on the actions needed to improve legal professionals' knowledge to ensure better protection of victims' rights in the judicial proceedings, establish synergies.

The events agendas in both countries had similar topics: presentation of major activities and estimated results; panel discussions on the trainings for lawyers and magistrates that will be organized, the need to increase collaboration between institutions, lawyers, magistrates and non-governmental organizations.

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