

## Press release

JULY 19, 2022

### THE AGE OF TRAFFICKED MINORS HAS DECREASED TO AN ALARMING LEVEL WHILE THEIR NUMBER IS CONTINUOUSLY INCREASING

ECLER, within the [STOP-AT](#) project, conducted research which shows that the average age of sexually exploited children is 14 years. The data presented for the last reporting year (2020) by the [Romanian Government](#), through the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), and [processed by ECLER](#) for better visibility, show the following aspects:

- 215 minors were identified as being sexually exploited, of which 32 were boys
- 2/3 of the total identified victims (133) are under 16 years old
- 4 victims were abducted
- 98 minors were recruited via the Internet (social media)
- depending on the age of the victim, the following minors were identified:
  - 1 minor of 3 years
  - 1 minor of 4 years
  - 2 minors of 6 years
  - 4 minors of 7 years
  - 2 minors of 8 years (1 boy and 1 girl)
  - 1 boy of 9 years
  - 1 girl of 10 years
  - 8 minors of 11 years, of which 5 boys
  - 10 minors of 12 years
  - 24 minors aged 13, of which 11 boys
  - 40 minors aged 14, of which 9 boys
  - 39 minors aged 15, of which 3 boys
  - 35 minors aged 16, of which 1 boy
  - 47 minors 17 years old, of which 1 boy.

Data on exploitation for begging, labour, theft (1 victim) and attempted trafficking can be found in the document processed by ECLER.

We draw attention once again to the fact that Romania has serious problems in the fight against human trafficking and the prevention of this phenomenon among very young children. In the context of the conflict in Ukraine, the vulnerability to trafficking of Ukrainian children, especially the unaccompanied ones, is worrying when the data collected by ECLER show that the information about human trafficking was based almost exclusively on leaflets that Ukrainians do not follow carefully and, as a consequence, they are not fully aware of the danger and risks of trafficking.

Project implemented by:

