



PARTENERI:



March 10, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

"FREEDOM DAY" INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(March 16, 12:00 - 15:30, Argeș County Cultural Center, Lumina Hall, Pitești)

March 16 is FREEDOM DAY, promoted globally by [CNN Internațional](#) to draw attention to the phenomenon of human trafficking. The **European Center for Legal Education and Research (ECLER)**, **Argeș County Council**, through the **County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance**, and the **Romanian-American University** invite teachers and high school students from Argeș to participate in the information session on the mode of action of *loverboy* traffickers.

We underline that, for over 30 years, Romania has been in the European top of human trafficking, with a very large number of victims and organized crime groups. [The statistics from 2020](#), published by the Government of Romania, are worrying and show an increase in the number of children trafficked for sexual exploitation, as well as a reduction in their average age (14 years). More and more children are recruited online, some are kidnapped, and the ages are very young, with a significant share of those over 12.

In this context, ECLER, together with members of the [RoTIP](#) NGO network, is launching a campaign to raise awareness on the risks of human trafficking in Romania. **The first pilot event** is organized with the support of the **Argeș County Council** and the **Romanian-American University**. The local coordinator of the project is the **County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance**. This campaign involves high school students from Argeș county. We aim, starting in 2024, for the campaign to be promoted at national level and similar events to be organized together with other county councils and local authorities. For further details please contact us at contact@ecler.org.

The event will take place on **Thursday, March 16, at the Argeș County Cultural Center, Sala Lumina, Pitesti, between 12:00 and 15:30**. Coordinating teachers will receive certificates of participation and coordination of student teams. Accompanying teachers are asked to confirm the participation of student groups by completing the following [online form \(https://ecler.online/16martie\)](https://ecler.online/16martie) no later than **March 14**.

In the hope that **TOGETHER** we can better prevent this criminal phenomenon,
we are waiting for you to join us!

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