



# ROMANIA'S NEW APPROACH ON FIGHTING THB

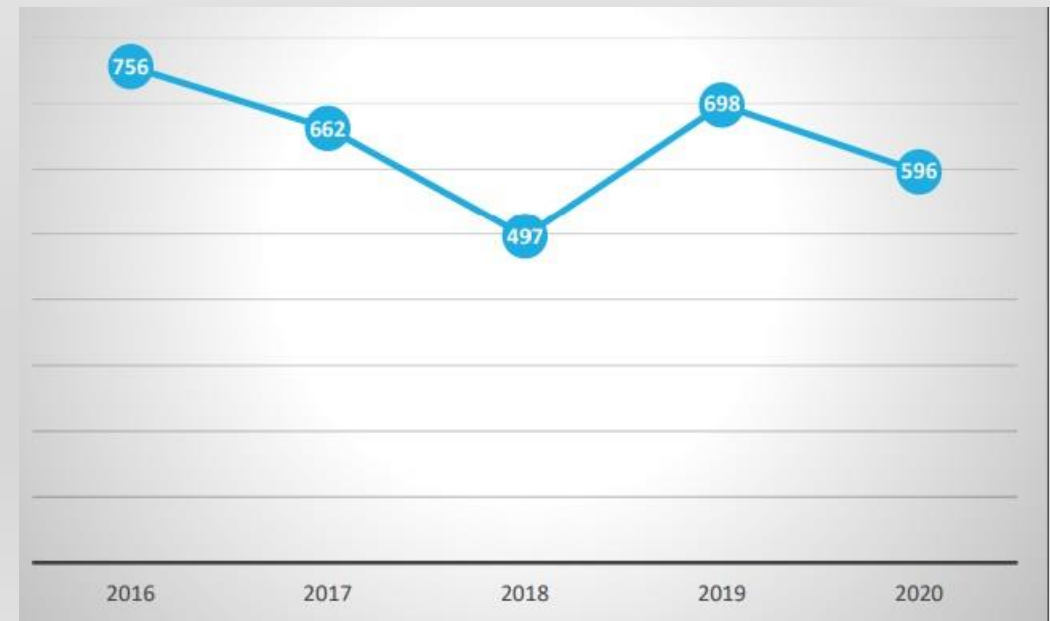
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# BACKGROUND INFO UNTIL 2021

- Romania – mainly a **country of origin** for VoT
- **Starting 2007** – both the system and the legal framework have significantly **evolved**
- Average annual number of victims – **500**
- A system based on the 4Ps: **prevention, prosecution, protection, partnership** (mostly operational level)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs – the **lead in the THB fight**
- National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) – **Coordinator & Rapporteur**

## Challenges:

- Working in silos
- Data collection challenges
- Reporting challenges
- Low level of political commitment



# 2021 – THE TURNING POINT

- **Context:**

- Overall stagnation
- Covid19 Pandemic challenges
- Challenging international reports and recommendations



**2 types of  
CHALLENGES**

**ADAPTIVE**

**TECHNICAL**

- **My role:**

- Counsellor of state – human rights, vulnerable groups, inclusion/integration
- Briefed the Prime Minister on the current situation
- Presented a project theory of change in fighting THB at national level
- Designated coordinator of the development and implementation of the new vision
- Appointed National Anti-trafficking Coordinator - 2022

# KEY ELEMENTS OF THE NEW VISION

- Leadership and coordination
- RO - a THB hostile country
- RO – a safe&friendly country for VoT
- Closing the gap between the origin and destination countries

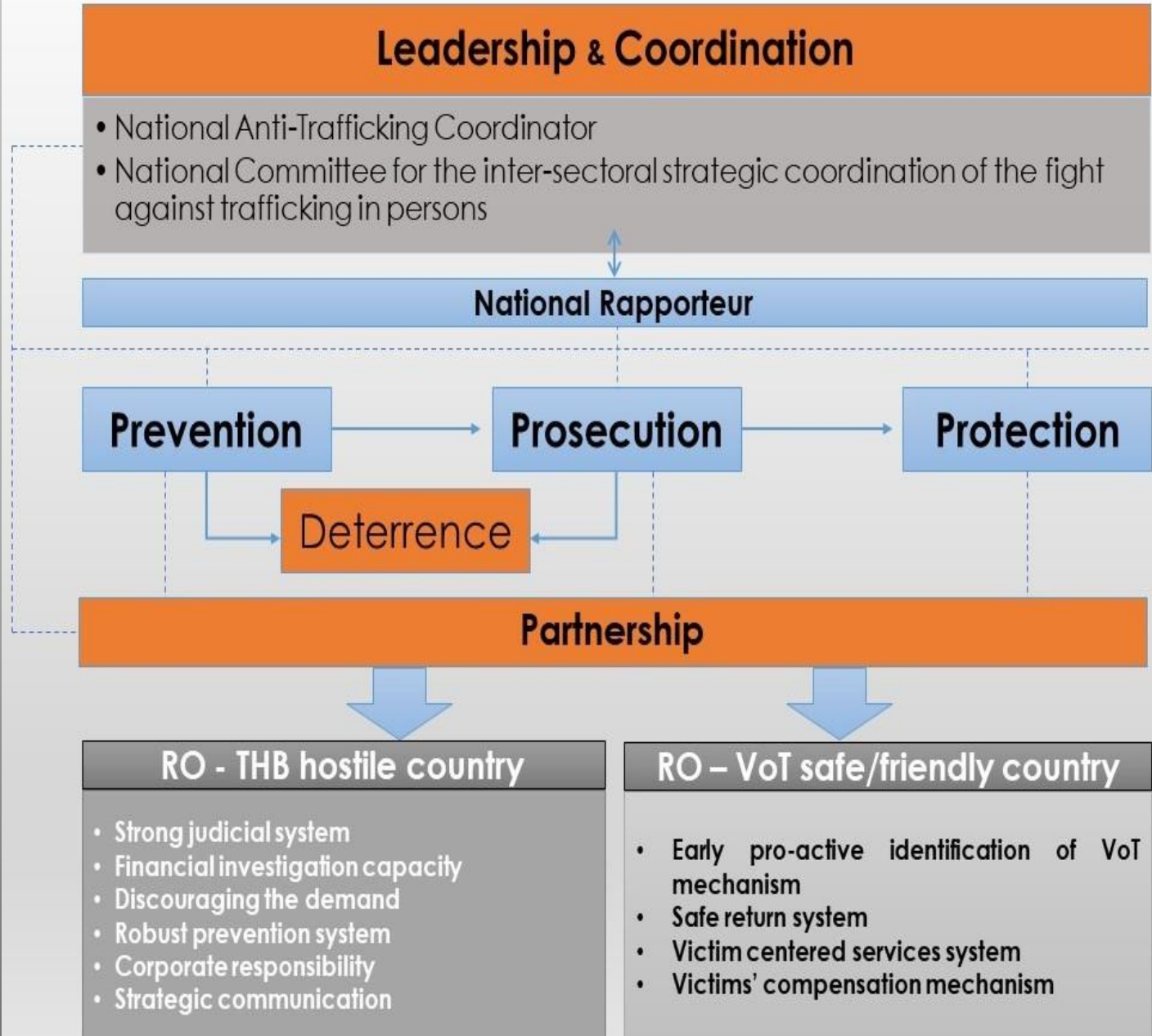


# Before



Preventing and combating THB

# After



# PROCESS BEHIND THE SCENE

- **7 pieces of legislation** have been elaborated and passed to reshape the system and implement the new vision
- **31 inter-institutional working groups** organized
- **19 strategic meetings** with the entire spectrum of stakeholders: **public, central, local, private, civil society, international organizations**
- Countless hours of **negotiation, facilitation, policy design, law drafting**

## Timetable of legislative changes in the fight against TP

### September 2021

GEO 105 for the approval and implementation of the National Child Support Program, - "Caring for Children" - dedicated measures with impact in preventing and combating child trafficking

### January 2022

GD 104 on the organization and functioning of the Department for Community Social Responsibility and Vulnerable Groups, as well as for the establishment of the TIP Monitoring Committee

### June 2022

GEO 100 on the approval and implementation of the National Plan of Measures on the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine,

### July 2022

LAW 230 on amending Law no. 318/2015 on the the establishment, organization and operation of the National Agency for Assets Recovery: Emergency Fund for TIP Victims, Grants' Program for NGOs

### September 2022

PM DECISION 461 on the establishment of the Working Group on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Risks Associated with Trafficking in Persons for displaced persons from Ukraine

### January 2023

GD 83 National Identification and Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking in Persons

### January 2023

PM DECISION 22 on the establishment and functioning of the National Inter-ministerial Committee for the strategic coordination of the fight against trafficking in persons.

# FIRST RESULTS

- ✓ A **new Mechanism for identifying and referring victims of human trafficking (Government Decision)** through which, both specialists from the public and private spheres, can participate in the early identification of victims (2023).
- ✓ A **National Emergency Fund for Victims has been set up** and the methodological norms are following the adoption procedure (2023).
- ✓ The first **government partnership to train frontline emergency physicians to identify victims of human trafficking.**
- ✓ **Cyber forensics system for the detection of online sexual criminals.**
- ✓ **47 hearing rooms for children victims** and multidisciplinary teams across the country.
- ✓ The first **Integrated Response Plan to international recommendations in the field of trafficking in human beings.**
- ✓ **RO-ALERT mechanism for missing children.**
- ✓ The **toll-free number for exploited, neglected, or abused children, 119**, has been active for 1 year and has saved thousands of children's lives.
- ✓ **Working Group on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Trafficking Risks for Refugees in Ukraine** has been established - **Action Plan** approved and in implementation.
- ✓ A **dynamic evaluation process of the National Strategy is underway, which is carried out by a team of independent experts (International Justice Mission)** and supported by ministries with contributions from civil society,
- ✓ The process to **co-create the new TIP Strategy has been initiated.**

THANK YOU

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