

Response Model of Intervention in the Ukrainian Crisis

INTRODUCTION

Within the context of the war in Ukraine and the refugees coming into Romania, eLiberare has developed a model of intervention that is assessing the risks of exploitation and human trafficking, as well as addressing the need for mid-term and long-term strategic measures to decrease that risk.

As the data reveals, Romania is mainly a transit country for people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. According to IOM data "75% arrived planning to spend less than 2 weeks to Romania, with the majority (61%) spending less than 5 days in Romania".

The problem that we foresee is the large number of Ukrainians who are going to leave Romania to find a better life in the Western part of Europe, without having any plans or contact points. This will make them more vulnerable in accepting precarious jobs. Another issue that we are taking into consideration is the risk of Ukrainians being exploited on Romanian territory (sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, trafficking of minors etc.) by networks of perpetrators and also by regular citizens who will try to take advantage of the situation. Last, but not least, there is the issue of victims already exploited on Ukrainian territory who might be transported to Romania by their traffickers and the need to spot the indicators of trafficking and offer assistance and support.





THE CONTEXT

Vulnerabilities and traumas can pave the way for a person to be trafficked. While escaping the war, Ukrainians end up vulnerable to deception and exploitation due to compound vulnerabilities (escaping war, limited resources, lack of paperwork, need for emergency assistance, etc.). In this context, eLiberare aims to liberalize protection through an open source model of intervention, Kompass, for all those displaced by creating a resilient network of stakeholders who track, advocate and assist for 'the one'. This way, we support people and organisations to ensure safe passage for as many people fleeing the war as possible.

The Kompass Model of Intervention is following the journey of those displaced by the war in Ukraine, first at national level, in Romania, and then across as many border crossings as they will have to their chosen destination.

THE MODEL

The Kompass Model of Intervention is implemented in four steps which constitutes a barrier against exploitation and human trafficking among Ukrainians and third-country nationals displaced by the war.

The Kompass Model is being implemented at local, national and regional levels and is ensuring an alternative traceability system that looks at personalized journeys of individuals, rather than migration trends. Many people will be crossing several borders, some without a clear sense of destination or without safe contacts waiting on the other side. People need a compass to navigate, on the one hand, the bureaucracy in order to access help in Romania, as well as what are the things needed to leave the country, how to make a personalized safety plan, establish emergency contact details and safety passwords. Permanence for such a service is needed in different facilities, in temporary and permanent housing settings, as well as in connection to the institutions dealing with asylum and protection measures.

Throughout the intervention we will also be assisting citizens and professionals in detecting and reporting cases of human trafficking and connecting them to authorities with investigative responsibilities, as well as raising awareness among the Ukrainians and the third-country nationals coming from Ukraine, especially among those with compound vulnerabilities.





THERE ARE 4 COMPONENTS OF THE INTERVENTION MODEL:



Raising awareness about safety measures

We are raising awareness among Ukrainians and third country-nationals displaced by the war in key locations like the border crossing points, train stations and airports, temporary and permanent housing centers including schools, gyms, churches, hotels administered by local authorities or private homes in host communities. We have developed a safety measure card and distributed it across the country with various partners and volunteers. Another important component of awareness is done online. KOMPASS.WORLD is the platform in which the Ukrainins and third-country nationals will be able to find all information in one place, not only about access to services or rights and responsibilities in Romania, but also across the region and Europe. We will also use social media, especially Telegram and through the Youtube channel with content developed by Ukrainins for Ukrainians, with our support.



Capacity Building

For those interested in staying in Romania, but also for those traveling further we have designed info sessions with details about the rights and responsibilities, details on temporary protection, access to various services, safety measures and information on the human trafficking risks. Participants will receive a backpack with essentials, including information materials and emergency contacts and ways in which they can be further assisted through our services.



Individual Safety Plans

The next step of our intervention is to help individuals plan their safe journey ahead or their safe stay in Romania. We have developed a set of tools which will help us map the compound vulnerabilities of individuals and assess the risks of exploitation. Based on the vulnerabilities identified, there are several scenarios developed which will fit to each individual, based on their individual needs. The intervention team then follows the completion of an Individual Safety Plan, setting a Safety Password, and adding the person on the Telegram group.







Assistance mid-term and long-term

The final step of the intervention is assisting individuals to their final destinations. For those traveling to other countries, the intervention team sets up check-in points throughout the journey, in different locations, so that in case of missing a check-point, our team can intervene through the partners network or through the local authorities in that specific country. The intervention team will make sure everyone reaches their final destination safely. For those staying in the country, the intervention team will make sure they don't end up in any type of exploitation and they receive the proper support and assistance.

THE STRATEGY:

First, we map the ecosystem (local, national, regional and international) to see where we intervene and where the intervention can become instrumental. Second, we identify groups of stakeholders and secure partnerships, from public to private entities, non-profit organizations and active citizens and then we build capacity on implementing the Kompass model which leads to early detection and notification of cases of potential human trafficking and assistance for those in need.

Once armed with knowledge and skills, the key social actors can benefit from the solutions created, which give them more formal authority to act. The group of stakeholders constitutes the network of safe places and safe spaces for the beneficiaries we will assist.

The next step is to promote and disseminate the tools and resources created by eLiberare which are by design replicable and open source. This is done internally by eLiberare's social workers and translators, but also through the partners within the resilient network of stakeholders created.



Intervention Model



Awareness:

Be alert to the warning signs along your journey.



Capacity Building:

Help navigating the bureaucracy and challenges of different countries.



Individualized safety plans:

Get a community behind you to make sure you get to your destination safely.



Assistance:

We all need a helping hand from time to time – we are here for you.

The Strategy



MAPPING THE ECOSYSTEM



IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS



CAPACITY BUILDING



DISSEMINATION

