



TRAFFICKING of MINORS for ROBBERY:

**a SUCCESSFULL CASE
PROSECUTED by TURIN
PUBLIC PROSECUTION
OFFICE**

Public Prosecutor
Ms. Cristina BIANCONI



THE CASE

- ❖ The case involved an organized criminal group dedicated to human trafficking, especially minors from the town of BISTRITA (Romania)
- ❖ The minors were forced to commit robberies in shopping centers in Northern Italy
- ❖ Investigations started in February 2005



THE ROUTE





THE INVESTIGATION

During the investigative phase, we were informed that

a Public Prosecutor from the "Investigative Directorate on Organised Crime and Terrorism of Bistrita-Nasaud"

was also carrying out investigations involving minors, as young as 13, forced into robbing in Italy



THE INVESTIGATION (ctd.)

As a consequence, a **joint investigative team** was created to carry out investigations in Italy and Romania. Such activity:

- identified the members of the criminal group,
- identified the group's structure and individual roles; and
- acquired important evidence against the offenders



THE COOPERATION

The cooperation provided by the Romanian Police proved very precious throughout the investigation.

In particular, the Romanian **Liaison Officers** in Italy had an important role in ensuring a perfect synergie between the investigations in the two countries and in reaching significant operational results.



THE CRIMES CHARGED

- Slavery
- Trafficking and trade in human beings
- Smuggling of migrants
- Handling of stolen goods



THE VICTIMS

- There were a total of 100 victims from the Bistrita – Nasaud District, controlled both in Italy and Romania were about 100, all coming
- They all belonged to extremely poor families
- The minors were usually recruited in schools or discos
- In very few cases, families reported their disappearance to the police





THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

The criminal organization was in control of every stage of the trafficking operation:

- from the issuance of passports, with the complicity of corrupt officials,
- to travel arrangements and transportation by car to Italy





THE EVIDENCE

- ✓ During the investigation some minors were identified and accommodated in safe houses
- ✓ The victims agreed to provide some information to the police with regards to their recruitment and exploitation
- ✓ The information provided confirmed the evidence collected by the police, also through wiretappings



CONCLUSION of the CASE

At the end of the investigative phase, 3 persons were arrested in **TURIN** and, in the framework of the joint investigations, 3 other persons were arrested in **BISTRITA**

