



REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU
Department for Border Affairs and Migration

**MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
AND MEASURES AGAINST THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Casablanca, 20.03.2019

Magdalena Nestorovska
State Secretary in Mol
and National Coordinator for fight against the
Human Trafficking and illegal migration

BACKGROUND

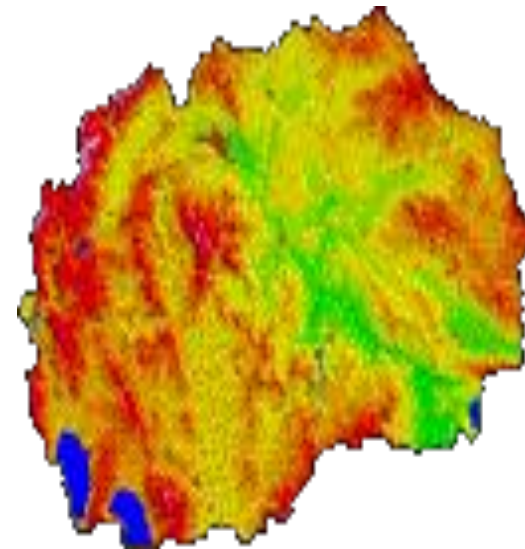
Crossroad and transit country to Western Europe

Total area: 25,713 km²,

Less than 2,2 million citizens

- 01.01.2015-30.06.2016: nearly 800.000 migrants

- Became part of so-called WB route



Migration crisis – situation in 2015

- Enormous number of migrants on daily basis;
- **Specific category of persons not meeting the criteria for legal entry, not seeking intl. protection from the country, but wanting to transit toward north in order to reach the western EU countries;**
- Non –efficient return mechanism
- Abuse of the Protection Mechanism (Asylum and temporary protection)
- Parallel internal challenges



Migration crisis – Key measures - National

Aim: To provide

National security

Public security

Public health

Security of the migrants

Humanitarian protection

Medical support

- Alterations on the Law on asylum and temporary protection (June, 2015);
- Decision on Crisis situation on northern and southern border, August 2015 (Prolonged and still INTO FORCE)
- International Joint Operation at the southern border (since December 2015, ONGOING)

Other measures derived by decisions of other countries along the route



Challenges

Various types of challenges, with different intensity, depending on the circumstances and external factors

First half of 2015: to provide conditions for appropriate humanitarian and medical aid,

Second half of 2015: reception, registration and smooth transit, in accordance with the criteria set by the other countries on the route

Until 18.06.2015 and after 19.11.2015: increased attempts for illegal crossings and smuggling of migrants,

End of November 2015, March – May 2016: disruptions of public peace and order, attempts for massive and violent illegal entry,...



Current situation and challenges

The so-called “WB migration route” has been officially closed since March 2016.No legal transit is possible along the route for persons that do not meet the national/Schengen entry criteria

Attempts for “revival” of the route: on a daily basis, Illegally – individually or by using services of the smugglers

= increased vulnerability and threat of exploitation

Current challenges:

- Smuggling of migrants and Human Trafficking
- Inefficient return mechanism,
- Secondary movements,
- Fragmentation of the route,
- High-costs operations,
-



Suppression of migrants smuggling and Human Trafficking

Legal Framework

Amendments in the Criminal Code – Non-punishment Principle of victims of THB regardless of their cooperation (*Aiming to fulfill GRETA's Recommendations and to align with Art.8 of Directive 2011/36/EU*)

New Law on Public Procurement – foresees provision aimed to prevent labor exploitation in the public sector

Revised SOP's for Treatment of Victims of THB

General Indicators for early identification of possible victims of THB in mixed migration flows

Indicators for Identification of children/pupils potential victims of trafficking for labor exploitation drafted (for educational purposes)

Suppression of migrants smuggling and Human Trafficking

National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration

Body that joins and coordinates all actors involved in the fight against the THB and the illegal migration

Consisted of National Coordinator, Deputy and Members

Within the Commission:

Secretariat – implements the decisions of the Commission

-Sub-group against trafficking of children

-Established six Local Commissions for SMSHT



INTL. ACTIVITIES



WORKSHOPS



CAMPAIGNS



Suppression of migrants smuggling and Human Trafficking

Mobile Identification teams

To provide medical, psychological, psychiatric and educational support, food, Hygiene services, clothing, etc.

-Active in 5 areas (Skopje, Bitola, Kumanovo, Gevgelija, Tetovo)

-

Nov.2018 – Feb.2019: support and assistance to 109 individuals

International Cooperation (recent activities)

Agreement btw Governments of RNM and RS for cooperation in the field of Human Trafficking – *Final phase, to be signed*

Cooperation Agreement btw the Task Forces of RNM and RS *Negotiation phase*

Strengthening cooperation with Bulgaria in the field of fight against HT
Negotiation phase, should result with Cooperation Protocol

Initiated negotiations with the National Commission from Greece.

-Task Force – National Unit for Suppression of Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking

Goal: To enhance national capacities and to increase the efficiency of the Police and the Prosecutor's Office in combating the organized forms of HT and smuggling of migrants

-Envisaged within the National Strategy 2017-2020 and the Governmental Plan of Reforms 3-6-9

- Legal ground: MoU btw MoI and Public Prosecutor's Office

- Operational since March 2018

-Under Leadership of Public Prosecutor from the Public Prosecutors Office for Suppression of Organized Crime and Corruption

-Deputy – Head of Unit for combating the HT (DSOSC)

-Members: permanent and temporary

from Dpt. for suppressing OSC and from border police
experts in various fields

-Task Force – National Unit for Suppression of Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking

Results from March 2018 until present:

-6 criminal charges for CA “Trafficking in child” against 17 persons (M-11/F-6),

-10 identified victims of HT (6 children)

-dismantled OCG: criminal charges against 21 person. 20 searches in 4 different cities, 16 persons arrested, confiscated 12 vehicles, 46 mobile devices, SIM cards, weapons, bullets, marijuana, money in various currencies etc.

- Strengthening the cooperation with other similar Units within the region



-Fight against Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking – WAY AHEAD

Fight against the HT and SM remains one of the highest national priorities

- close cooperation with GRETA, strict implementation of the recommendations
- National Strategy and Action Plan for fight against the HT and SM 2017-2020
- Annual Operational Plan
- Republic of North Macedonia has taken over the 2019 Presidency of International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
One of the priorities: Improved utilization of the Anti-Trafficking Program (Priority 14.4)
- Further participation in all regional initiatives and programs dealing with HT
- Support from OSCE, IOM and other International Partners

THANK YOU

**Magdalena Nestorovska
State Secretary in MoI
and National Coordinator for fight against the
Human Trafficking and illegal migration**