



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
COMBATING TRAFFICKING
IN HUMAN BEINGS



FROM POLICY TO ACTION

AGAINST TRAFFICKING
IN HUMAN BEINGS



Co-funded by the Internal Security Fund (ISF) 2014-2020 of the European Union

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**Putting together a NATIONAL PROGRAMME for
the prevention of THB and the protection of
VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION in a country of origin:
COOPERATION at a local level and beyond national borders
within the context of MEASURING THE MATERIAL AND HUMAN
COSTS**

**ASSISTING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND
MEASURING THE COSTS THEREOF**

Lisbon, 4-5 December 2017



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EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ALL WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT COOPERATION IS THE KEY (WHICH WOULD FROM ONE SIDE IMPROVE THE IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT OF VOTs & FROM ANOTHER – ENHANCE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION & THUS LOWER THE EFFORTS & COSTS) – DOES IT ALWAYS HAPPEN & WHAT`S THE CITERIA FOR SUCCESS?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING for SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: BULGARIA

Bulgaria still remains mainly a **country of origin** for victims of trafficking; in **fewer cases** it is also a country of **transit** and **destination**.

Root causes:

- Social and psychological (pre)conditions; economic;
- Many victims do not perceive themselves as victim of the crime or are in intimate relations with the trafficker
- Lack of social experience and/or poor education; Normalization of violence and lack of supportive family background

Methods for recruitment:

- Extortion through the Internet (Facebook, Instagram, job search and/or dating sites)
- Working or sometimes studying abroad – “mouth to mouth” advertisement;
- “Lover boy” phenomenon;
- Marriage proposals; “Family business” (especially for the Roma minority)



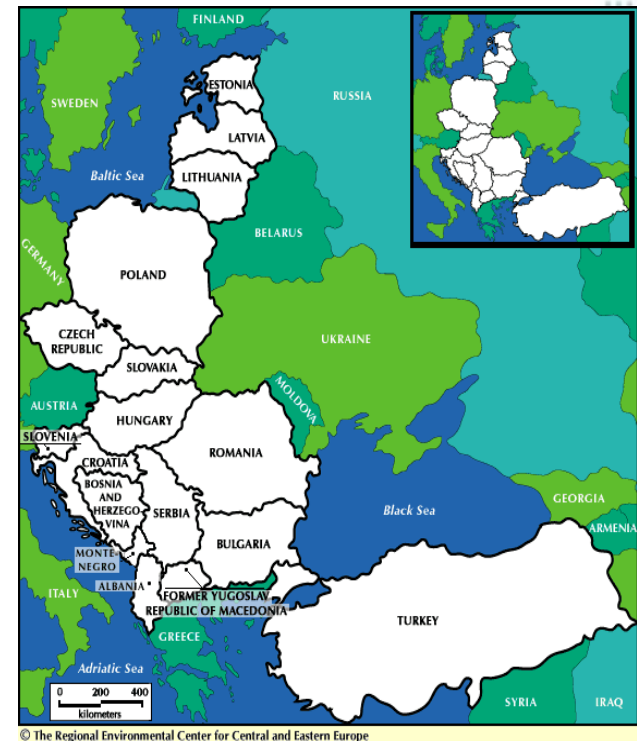
THB FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: DEMAND/ DESTINATION

■ Destination countries for Bulgarian victims

- Germany, Belgium; Netherlands;
- Greece; Cyprus;
- United Kingdom;
- Italy, Spain, France;
- Switzerland;
- Nordic region (Sweden, Norway)
- Czech Republic.

■ Foreign victims in Bulgaria

- Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia;
- Non-EU nationals (in relation to the migration crisis).



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- ✓ **Legislation (International, EU and national legal instruments)**
 - Transposed international legal instruments – directives, protocols and conventions
 - Provisions in the Penal code + Penal Procedural Code + specialized Law for combating THB + Law on compensation of victims of crime (including VoTs)
- ✓ **Institutional Framework: National commission for combatting trafficking in human beings (NCCTHB)** with the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria – a **collective body** placed on highest institutional level (not a section/department of a separate ministry as in many other EU countries). The chairman of the NCCTHB – by law - a Deputy Prime Minister
- ✓ **Operational Mechanisms:**
 - **Administration and executive secretary of the NCCTHB** - *Equivalent mechanism of a national reporter* (data collection and analysis)
 - The NCCTHB – part of the **TRM** development and coordination
 - Coordinating the **NRM (2 more coordination mechanisms related to CHILDREN)** coordinated by the SACP and MOI)
 - Development and coordination the **Annual National operational Anti-THB programme** (approved by the Council of Ministers)
- ✓ **NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING THB (2017 – 2021)**

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National Commission for Combatting Trafficking for Human Beings

NCCTHB (collective body) with
the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria

SECRETARIAT of the NCCTHB

Permanent expert
working group

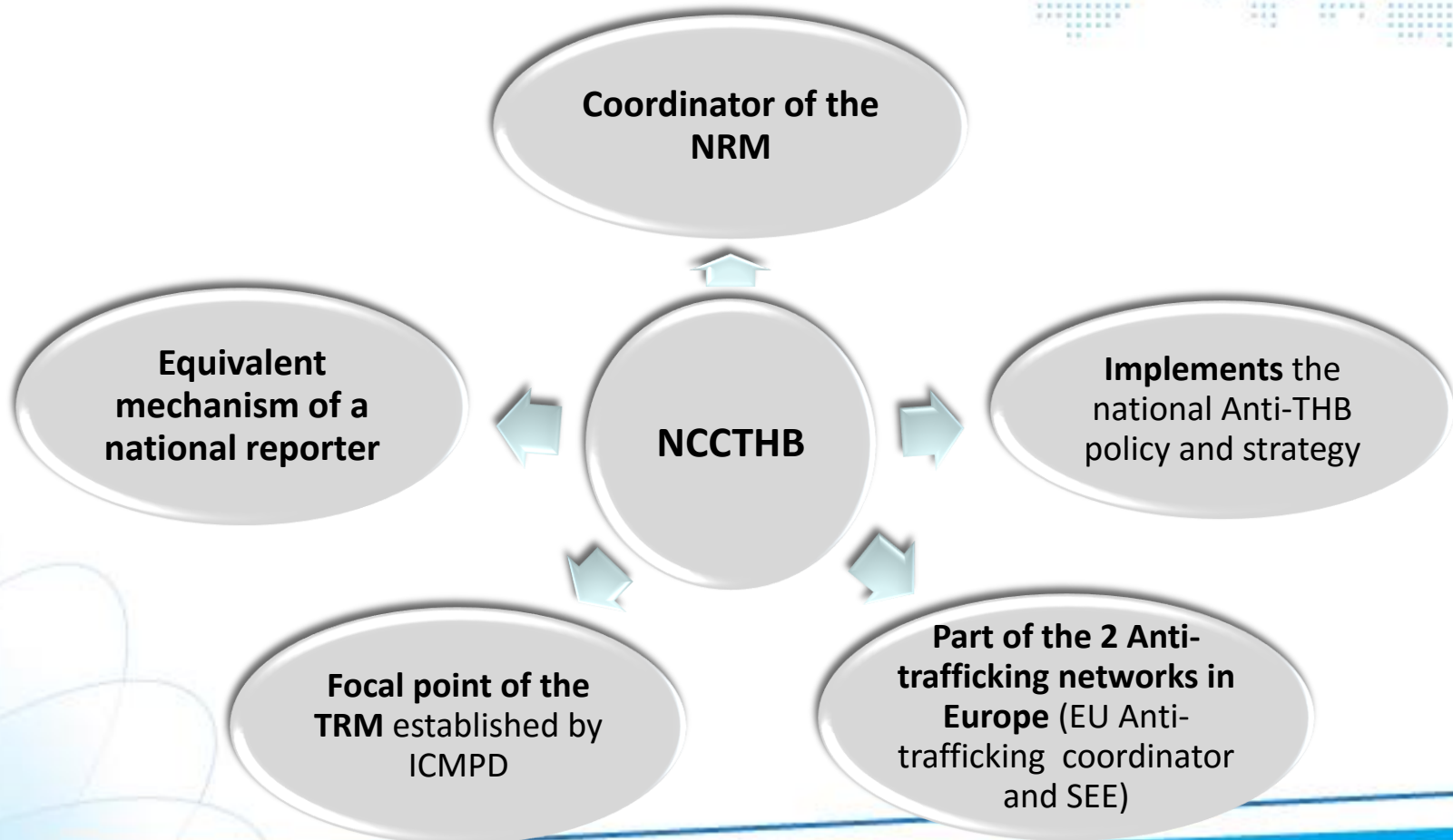
10 Local/ Municipal
Commissions for
Combating THB

8 specialized services
for VOTs

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National Commission for Combatting Trafficking for Human Beings



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10 Municipalities involved in prevention and combating THB

- Blagoevgrad
- Burgas
- Varna
- Veliko Tarnovo
- Montana
- Pazardzhik
- Plovdiv
- Pleven
- Ruse
- Sliven



NATIONAL OPERATIONAL ANTI-THB PROGRAM (Developed on annual basis)

- **Institutional and organizational measures**
- **Data collection and analysis**
- **Prevention (including volunteers network development)**
- **Capacity building and training**
- **Assistance, protection and (re)integration of victims of trafficking**
- **International cooperation**
- **Legal amendments and proposals**

NATIONAL PROGRAM: PREVENTION

1. MAPPING AND ANALYSIS – FOLLOWED BY TARGETED PREVENTION:

Based on case work of potential THB situation in South of **France!**

2. Indirect and direct work with the public and risk groups

- Specific focus on THB for sexual exploitation (including development of specialized short film material used in prevention sessions with *migrants and asylum seekers*);
- **PREVENTION VIA DETECTION**: Action weeks (Mol and Europol; within **BG-SWISS** Anti-THB Programme)
- **TARGETED PREVENTION**: cooperation with mediators, including entering the issue of THB via other subjects (health; educational and economic measures)
- **LOOKING FORWARD**: 1. involvement of the **PRIVATE SECTOR** (Facebook; Manpower group, Advertisement agencies; IKEA; Job search & dating sites; advertising sites - OLX) ; 2. **DEMAND SIDE OF THB** (Campaign with Post Bank; SEE Network) – based on case work – targeted actions with **Czech Republic** partners



WHOM DO WE TARGET (THB for SEXUAL EXPLOITATION)?

Risk groups:

- **Young women – at highest risk (18 – 30)**
- **Children (the age is dropping!), especially teenage girls and boys**
- **(Young) man**

Professionals (building the capacity of experts and practitioners):

- **On identification (incl. 1st level of identification) and referral;**
- **Detection and investigation;**
- **Prosecution & Victims centered approach!**
- **Legal counsel and courtroom protection**

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DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION: WORKING BEYOND BORDERS

- In 2016 and early 2017, 25 police operations were carried out;
- Parallel investigations were conducted with result: 5 agreements were signed for JITs – with the Netherlands, the Netherlands and Belgium, with Germany, and with Spain;
- In regard to international cooperation, 8 operations with foreign partner services were conducted, including 2 in the framework of Europol, 1 international operation with Spain and 2 for parallel investigations with Italy and Belgium; the total number of detained persons (in Bulgaria and on the territories of other European countries) is 28.

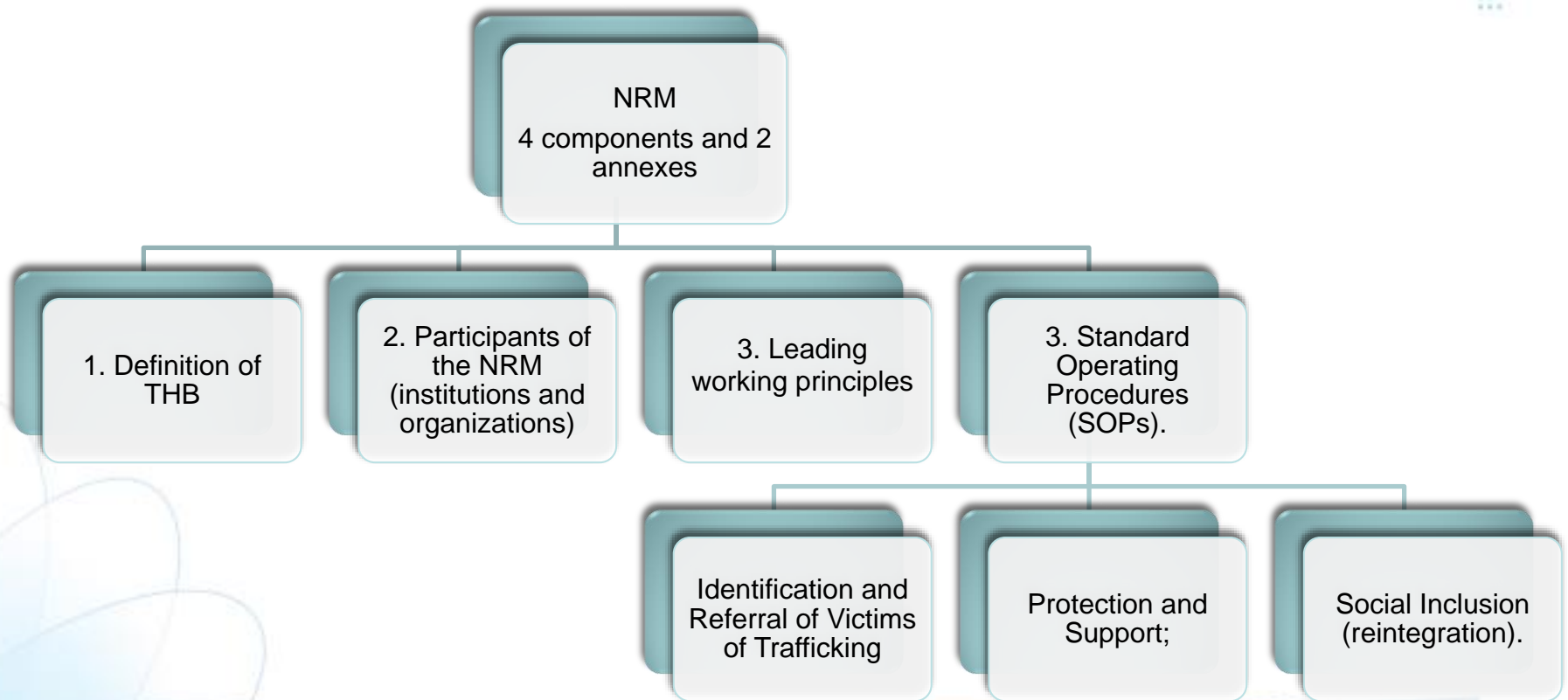
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Multi-disciplinary, multi-agency team on coordination of cases (developed to enhance the practical implementation of the NRM; victim centered approach) – with main members from institutions and coordinated by the Secretariat of the NCCTHB

National Mechanism for Referral and Support of victims of human trafficking (NRM)



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NRM: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

SOP: Identification and Referral

- Measure 1.1. **Identification**
- Measure 1.2. **Risk Assessment**
- Measure 1.3. **Identification of immediate needs**
- Measure 1.4. **Referral**

SOP: Protection and support

- Measure 2.1. **Crisis Intervention**
- Measure 2.2. **Support During the Reflection Period**

SOP: Social Inclusion (re- integration)

- Measure 3.1. **Long-term psychological support and empowerment**
- Measure 3.2. **Safe return**
- Measure 3.3. **Participation in criminal proceedings**
- Measure 3.4. **Financial Compensation**

NATIONAL PROGRAM: REINTEGRATION

❑ Residential and social services:

State shelters, crisis centers, safe houses for victims of THB:

- 22 Crisis Centers for adults and children, victims of violence and human trafficking (11 of which only for children)
- **8 services financed by the NCCTHB: shelter houses, consultation and support centers, crisis center and shelter for long-term reintegration**
- Other types of shelter houses under the Agency for Social Assistance;
- Shelter houses and support programmes with private funding and donations (Red Cross; Concordia; A21 Campaign/ Daughters of BG);
- IOM strategic partnership – in relations to safe and voluntary return

❑ Social and consultative support:

Psychological, social and legal support and representation; Educational and Empowerment programs; Job consultations and support

Basic cost-estimate: the FINANCIAL aspect

Funds earmarked in the NCCTHB budget

Year	Funds spent from the NCCTHB budget	Additionally mobilized external financing	Total
2014	BGN 395,118	BGN 5,185	BGN 400,303
2015	BGN 231,897	BGN 36,507	BGN 268,404
2016	BGN 392,185	BGN 128,167	BGN 520,352
2017	BGN 376,000	BGN 254,021	<u>BGN 630,021</u>

Note: Please take into account the fact that **budgets of individual agencies also include funds, specifically appropriated for combating trafficking in human beings**, the precise accounting of which is difficult in view of the total “budget line”, in which they are classified. For example, funds are envisaged in the budget of the MoI for combating/operations against organized criminal activities, which include also trafficking in human beings (together with those against the traffic in drugs, arms etc.). The inclusion of funds from the budgets of agencies would significantly increase the above amount of BGN 630,021 in overall financing (see the table for details).

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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