



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



***STATE AGENCY FOR REFUGEES WITH THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS***

***Panel: Challenges and success factors in
managing secondary movements***

1 June 2018

SAR Structure

History:

- 1992 – 1999: National Bureau for Territorial Asylum and Refugees (Council of Ministers decree)
- 1999 – 2002: Agency for Refugees (Law on Refugees)
- Since 2002: State Agency for Refugees (Law on Asylum and Refugees)

Management and Structure:

- Chairperson
- Two deputy chairpersons
- Chief secretary
- General administration
- Specialised administration
- Territorial units: RRC Sofia; RRC Banya; RRC Harmanli and TC Pastrogor

SAR Competences

Conducting the procedure for international protection:

- **Registration of asylum seekers**
- **Reception and accommodation**
- **Examination of applications**
- **Granting and withdrawing international protection**
 - Temporary documents for asylum seekers
 - Provision of food and medical care
 - Provision of services: interpretation, psychological assistance, security services, etc.
 - Social assistance

Challenges faced during crises

**Registration of
high number of
asylum seekers**



**Reception and
accommodation
capacity and
conditions**



**Administrative
capacity**



Steps taken towards enhancing capacities



Participation in the diplomatic demarche on a bilateral and multilateral basis



Financial assistance from the European Commission



Trainings:
- specialized
- train-the-trainers
- management



Requesting operational support from the European Asylum Support Office



Active interaction with internal and external stakeholders



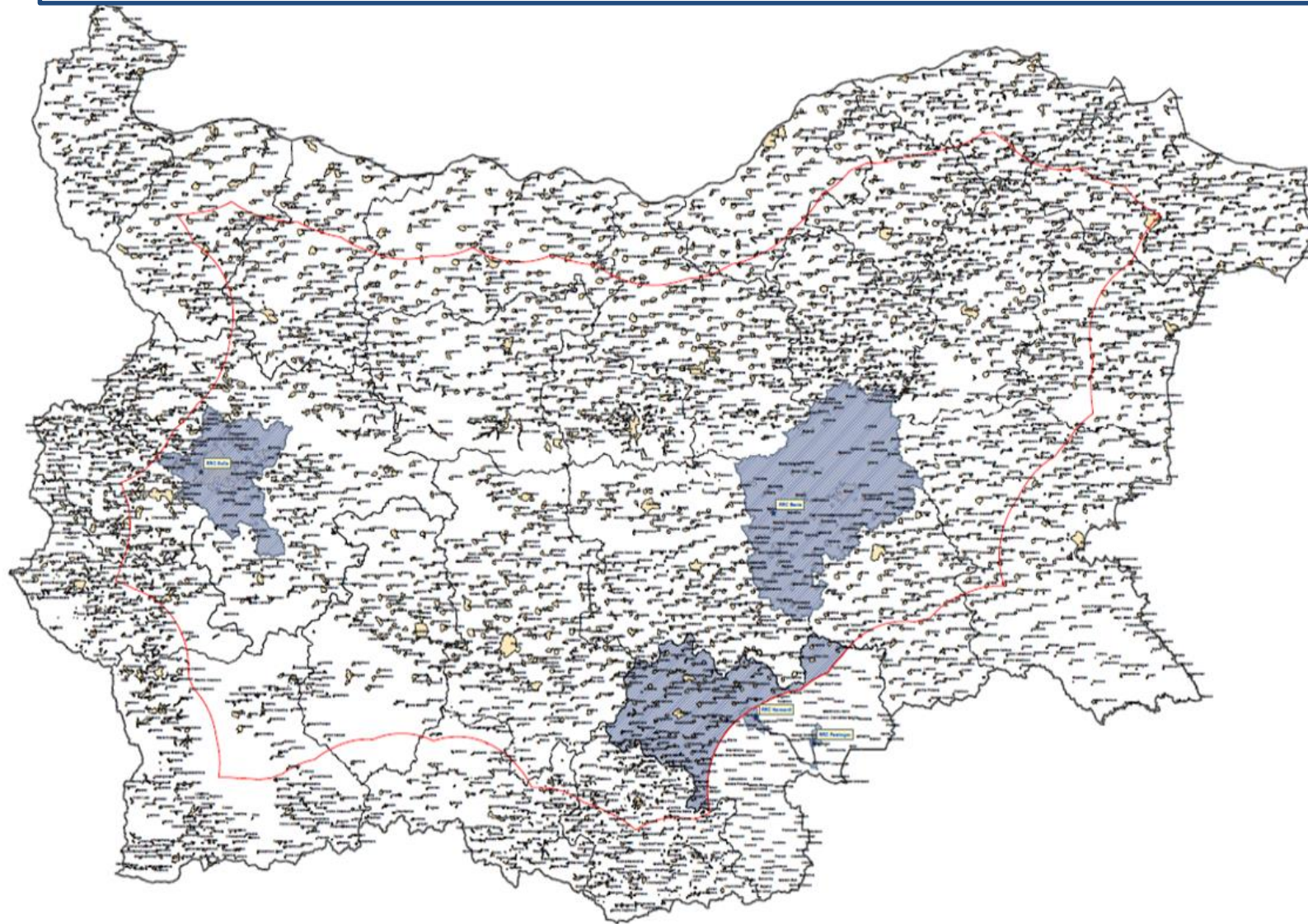
Lessons learned

- **Maintaining adequately trained and sufficient personnel**
- **Good coordination on national governmental level (Mol, SANS, MinLSA, MFA, etc.) and interaction with NGOs and IOs**
- **Securing the necessary conditions for vulnerable groups**
- **Maintaining an established system for contingency planning**
- **Need of overall CEAS reform**

Steps taken towards tackling secondary movements

- SAR closed reception premises from 2016
- Zones of movement introduced in 2017
- Social and cultural adaptation
- Close cooperation with Mol-Migration, Border Police and other stakeholders in relation to registration of asylum seekers, in relation to returns and implementation of the Dublin Regulation
- Active participation of SAR experts in CEAS reform progress under the Bulgarian Presidency

Zones of movement



1:500 000

