

RETURN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of EU in the Field of Return

❖ **More effective management of migration**

❖ **Border security**

❖ **Improving the safety of the EU citizen**

- ✓ Increasing the number of returned foreigners, incl. by using in full the extended mandate of the Frontex Agency.
- ✓ Achieving progress on the Common asylum System
- ✓ Achieving concrete results from the implementation of the existing readmission agreements and conclude new ones.
- ✓ Improving the cooperation with countries of origin and transit.
- ✓ Establishing a stronger coordination between return and visa policies.
- ✓ Providing interoperability of the information systems and databases

Return policy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Strategic Framework

National Strategy in the field of Migration, Asylum and Integration, 2015 – 2020:

Priorities

- Effective counteraction of the irregular migration;
- Voluntary return is set as a priority form of the return policy of irregular TCNs;
- Establishing the principles of the good governance in regulating legal migration to benefit the economic development of the country.

Goal

Prevention and effective counteraction of irregular migration

Return Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria.

National context

AIMING A MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RETURN PROCEDURES BULGARIA PUTS ITS EFFORTS IN:

Harmonizing the Bulgarian legislation in line with the EU standards.

Concluding agreements for readmission both bilaterally and at EU level.

Strengthening the cooperation with the EU member states and the Frontex Agency.

Strengthening the cooperation with third countries.

Improving the interagency cooperation and coordination.

Improving the development of the voluntary return policy of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Strengthening the institutional capacity in the field of return and detention.

Return Policies of the Republic of Bulgaria

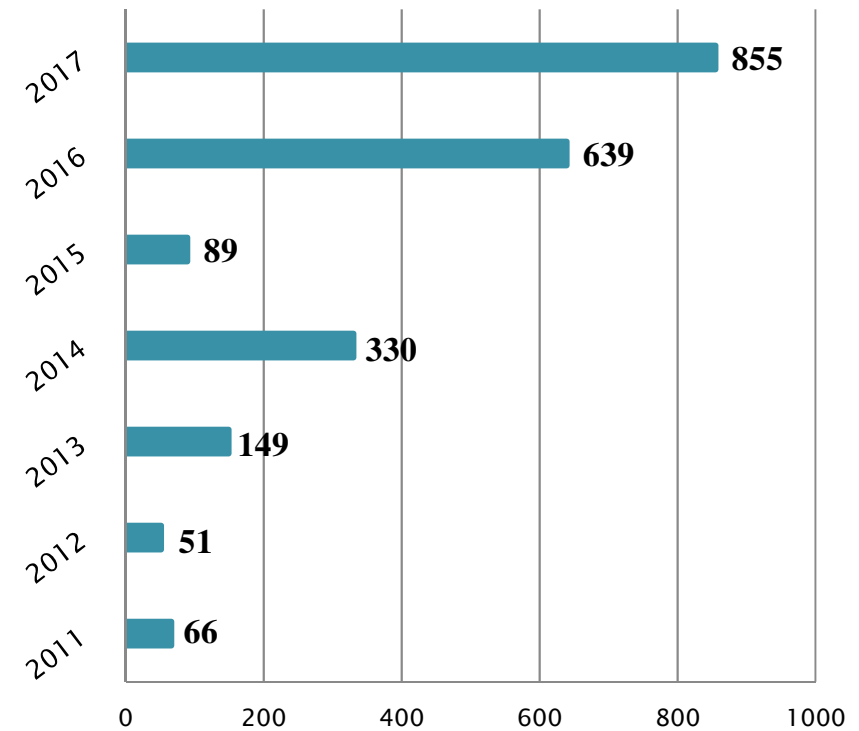
Legislative changes

- ✓ Refinement of the terminology
- ✓ Introducing new grounds for return
- ✓ Introducing new alternatives of detention
- ✓ The procedure for issuing an European travel document is regulated
- ✓ Administrative detention up to 30 days

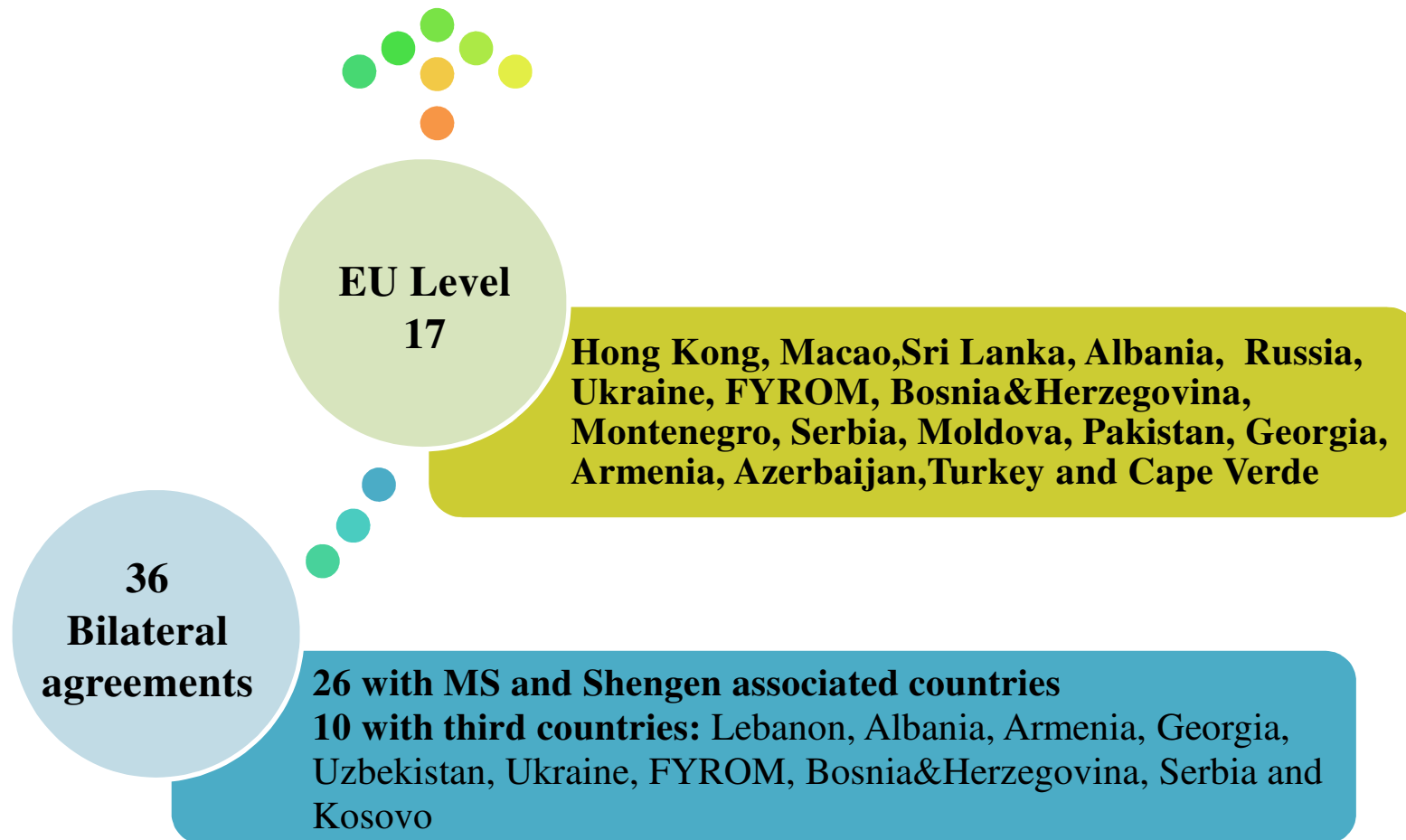
Voluntary return



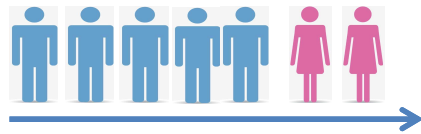
Number of persons returned under the assisted voluntary return programs.



Readmission



Profile of persons subject to forced return



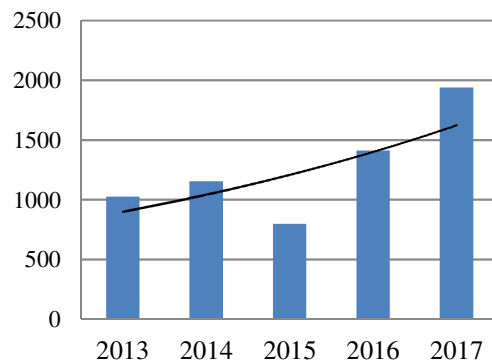
94 % men

Age: 18-35 (75 %)



5 % of the forced returned persons are families.

Effectively returned foreigners for the period of 2013-2017.



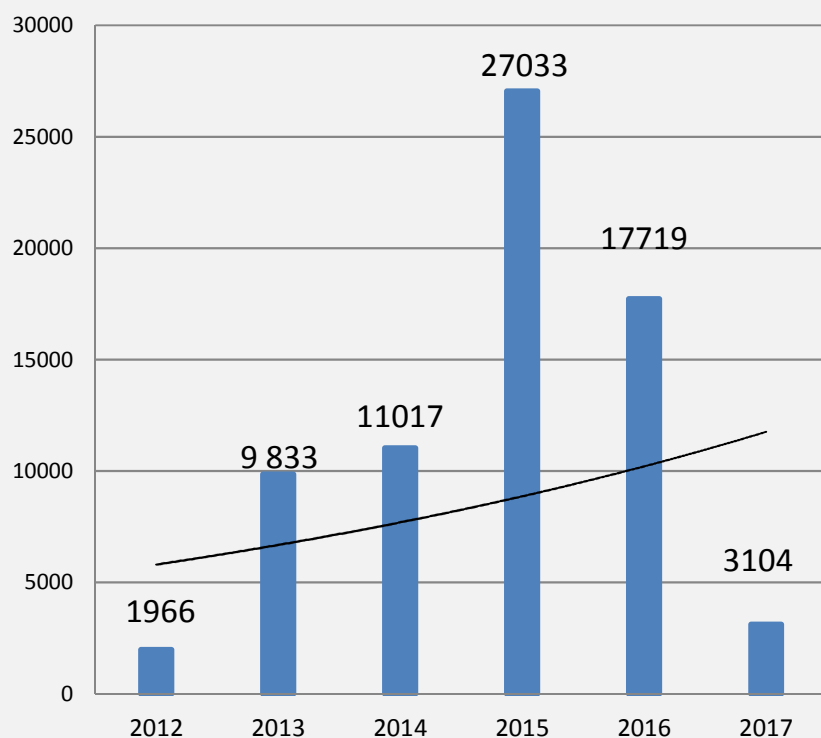
| 7 | 31 May 2018

Nationalities

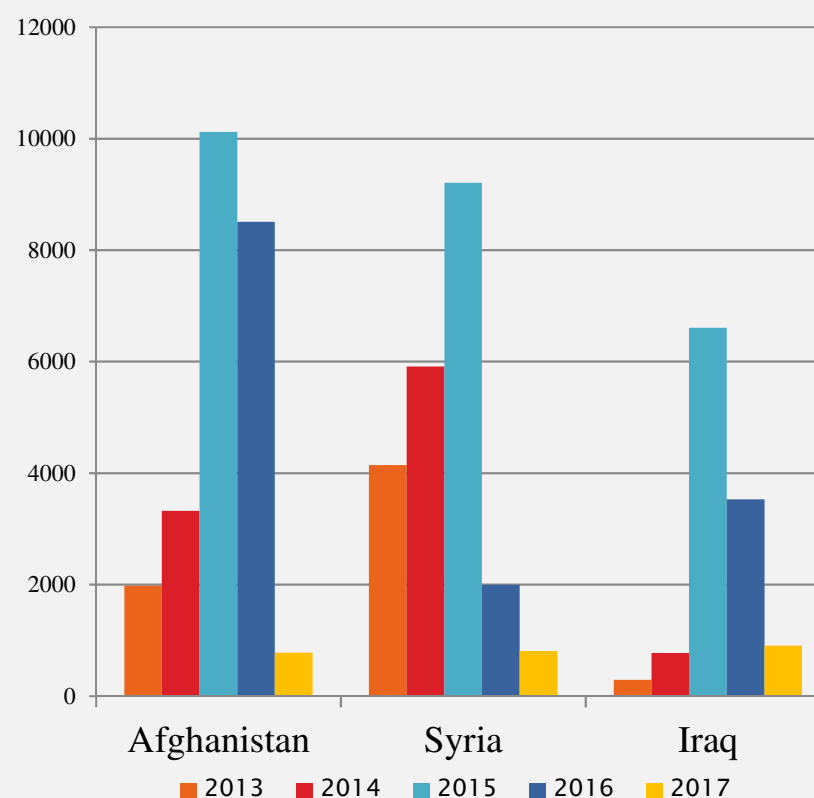


Number of foreigners subject to return, accommodated in Special homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners (SHTAF)

TCNs, accommodated in SHTAF and the Distribution Center



Nationality of the accommodated foreigners



Challenges for Bulgaria in the implementation of the return procedures

More than 80% of the foreigners who are illegally staying in the country apply for international protection during their stay at the SHTPF, which stops the implementation of the imposed measure, while SAR does not take a final decision on their application

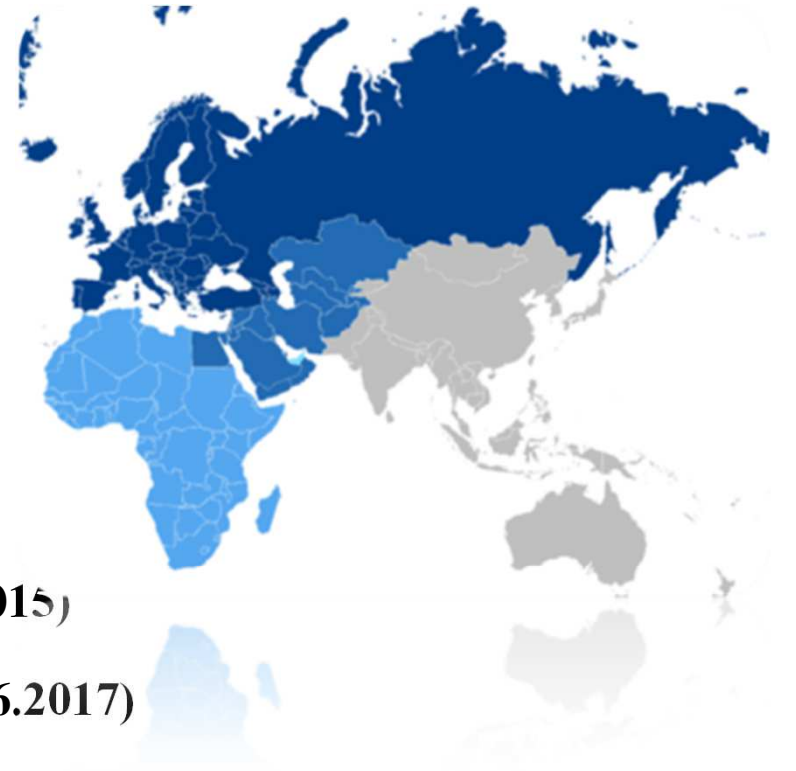
A large number of foreigners staying illegally in the country are citizens of Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq - countries where return is severely hampered.

The consular departments in the Republic of Bulgaria of those countries which represent a migratory risk (Afghanistan, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Iran, Pakistan, etc.) refuse to issue travel documents as well as to assist in the process of identifying their own citizens illegally staying in Bulgaria **if they do not declare their willingness to return voluntarily.**

Cooperation with EU and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex



- ❑ **37 joint flights, returned in total 147 TCNs**
- ❑ **Organized one joint flight to Pakistan (25.09.2015)**
- ❑ **Organized a national flight to Sri Lanka (27 .06.2017)**
- ❑ **Actively participated in Poseidon Operation for return in Greece**
- ❑ **Participation in Triton Operation**



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!