

3. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Bulgaria lies on the migration route for various foreign nationals. Its territory is used as a regional transit center for trafficking in human beings.

Bulgaria's geographic position was skillfully exploited by groups of Bulgarian and foreign citizens, who transformed the migration flow into an organized national and international criminal activity. A growing number of Bulgarian citizens living in border areas are making human trafficking their main occupation.

Bulgaria plays three different roles in human trafficking:

- as a transit route
- as a final destination
- as a country of origin

Most foreign nationals who entered Bulgaria through illegal channels do not wish to remain on its territory. The majority of those who have acquired the status of refugees subsequently attempt to leave the country illegally. There are numerous cases of people with refugee status in Bulgaria trying to illegally reach Western Europe.

Based on the analysis of methods used for transfer of people across the state border, the international channels for human trafficking can be classified as legal, illegal and combined.