

Source: Customs Agency

3.1. CHANNELS FOR TRAFFICKING

The following methods are used for crossing the border illegally:

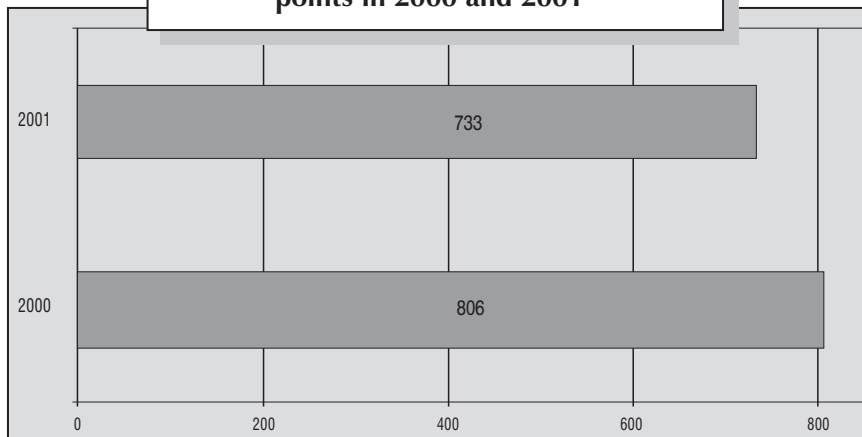
- Illegal individual or group crossing across the "green border"
- Foreign nationals enter the country legally with transit visas and then exit illegally through channels leading across Macedonia, Albania and Italy to countries in Western Europe
- Foreign nationals enter the country legally, but then attempt to exit with falsified documents
- Legal crossing into a neighboring country for which no visa is required and from there illegal crossing into Greece
- Hiding in secret compartments of transport vehicles entering the country
- Using package tours to reach the desired destination
- Hiding in passenger and cargo trains and ships

The following division of human trafficking channels can be made:

1. Foreign nationals enter Bulgaria legally and exit illegally.

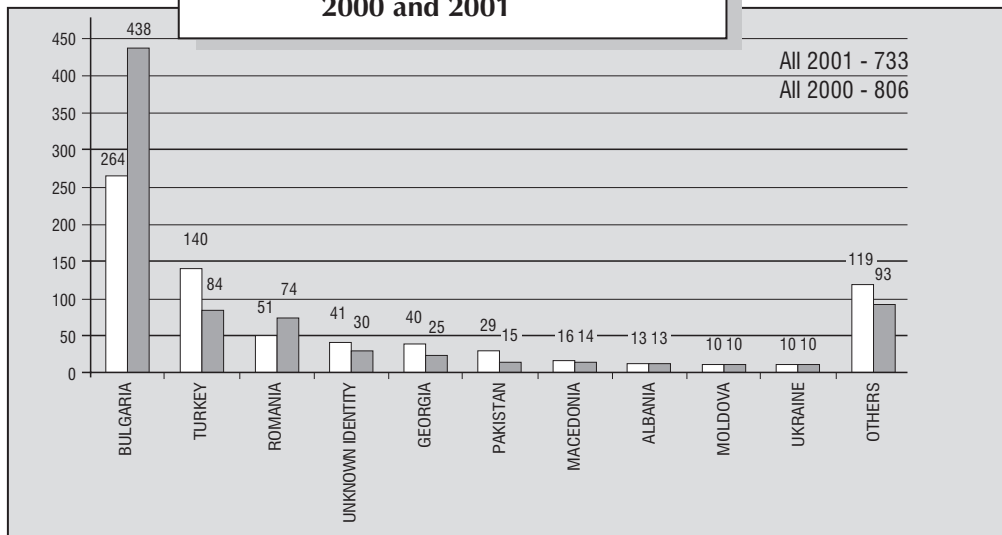
- **From Romania through Bulgaria or Macedonia to Greece and from there to Western Europe**
Mostly Romanian, Ukrainian and Moldovan citizens use this channel. Romanian citizens have the easiest access to Bulgaria since they are not required to obtain a visa. From Bulgaria, they illegally cross into Greece (either directly or through Macedonia), and from there to Italy and other West European countries. These channels are used also for trafficking of women for sex industry.
- **From Turkey through Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania and Italy to Western Europe**
Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin represent the majority of people trafficked along this route. They reach Bulgaria by sea, air or land. From Bulgaria, they cross legal-

Chart 9: Persons detained at border checkpoints in 2000 and 2001



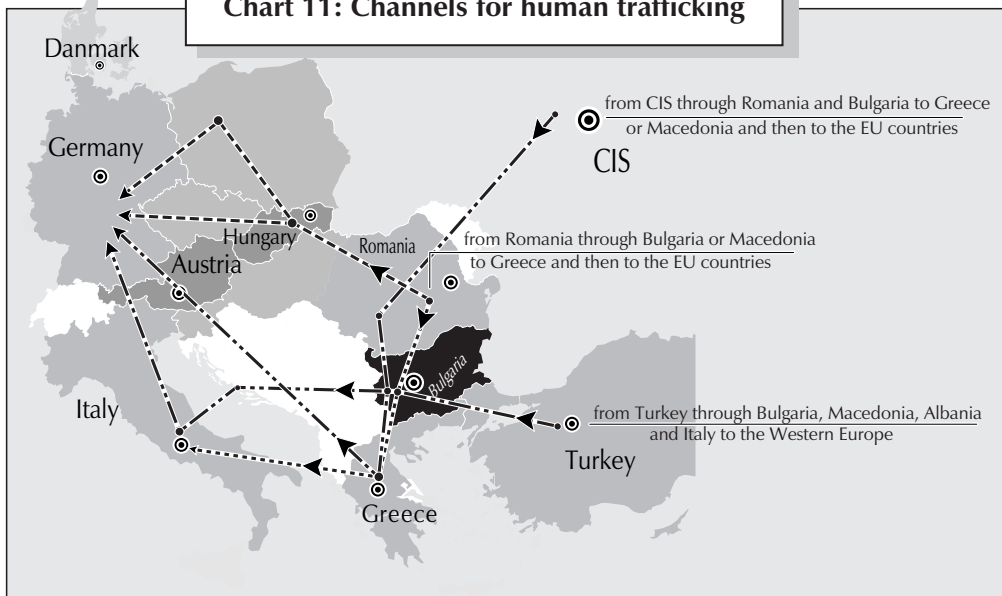
Source: Customs Agency

Chart 10: Persons detained at border checkpoints by nationality for 2000 and 2001



Source: Customs Agency

Chart 11: Channels for human trafficking



Source: National Border Police Service

ly or illegally into Macedonia, Albania and Italy and from there to Western Europe, Canada or the USA. In some cases, they reach Western Europe after being trafficked to Greece. The main problem in cutting the channel for trafficking from Turkey is that the majority of people using it have regular documents (they have transit visas for the third country).

■ **From Turkey through Romania and Bulgaria to Western Europe**

The channel is used mostly by Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin. They travel to Romania by sea or by air. Then they enter Bulgaria with transit visas and illegally cross into Macedonia across the "green border," or Serbia by using false Bulgarian passports. From there, they are trafficked to Western European countries.

■ **From former Soviet Union through Romania and Bulgaria to Greece or Macedonia and from there to Western Europe**

These channels are used primarily by citizens of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. They travel to Bulgaria by air, sea or land.

From Bulgaria, they are illegally transferred to Greece or Macedonia and Albania and from there to Italy and other Western European countries. These channels are used also for trafficking of women for sex industry.

■ **From former Soviet Union through Turkey and Bulgaria to Greece and from there to Western Europe**

These channels are used by citizens of Georgia and Armenia. They enter Bulgaria as tourists in organized package tours and subsequently attempt to cross into Greece or Macedonia and Albania with false documents or across the "green border." From there, they are trafficked to Western Europe. These channels are used also for trafficking of women for sex industry.

2. Foreign nationals enter and exit Bulgaria illegally.

■ From the Middle East through Turkey and Bulgaria to Western Europe

These channels are predominantly used by citizens of Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Iran, Iraq, as well as by Palestinians. The air, sea and land transport is used for reaching Turkey. Trafficking into Bulgaria is organized across the "green border" or by hiding in transport vehicles, entering through border crossings. From Bulgaria, these people are trafficked into Greece or Macedonia and Albania and from there to Western Europe.

■ Trafficking of persons of Hindu origin

Citizens of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are trafficked through Bulgaria to Greece and Western Europe. They enter Bulgaria by air or by land and then illegally cross into Greece or Macedonia and Albania and from there to Italy and other Western European countries.

■ Trafficking of persons from Africa

Citizens of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Rwanda cross Bulgaria on their way to Greece and other EU countries. Most of them enter Bulgaria by sea or by air. Many are trafficked from Bulgaria through Serbia and Hungary to Western Europe, Canada or the USA. In some cases, they exit Bulgaria with false West European passports.

In the first five months of 2002, 313 persons of various nationalities were detained at the Bulgarian border crossings: 130 were Bulgarian citizens, 45 Turkish citizens, 37 were citizens of Iraq, the identity of 20 persons was not established, 13 were Palestinians, 11 were citizens of Iran, 10 of Afghanistan, 5 of Greece, 5 of Tunisia, 4 of Ukraine and 33 had some other citizenship. In the same period, 423 persons, wanted by the police, were caught at the border crossings, of which 387 were Bulgarian citizens and 36 were foreigners. For comparison, between January and May 2001, 216 Bulgarian citizens and 27 foreigners were arrested.

In the same period of 2002, **793 persons were not allowed to exit Bulgaria.** They included 614 Bulgarian, 21 Macedonian, 17 Greek, 17 Turkish, 10 Romanian, 8 Afghan, 8 British, 7 German, 7 Moldovan and 7 Ukrainian citizens, as well as 77 persons with other nationalities. In the first five months of 2001, 600 persons were prevented from leaving Bulgaria, of which 452 were Bulgarian citizens and 148 were foreigners.

The total number of **persons, who were not allowed to enter Bulgaria was 2268**, of which 962 were Turkish, 134 Ukrainian, 123 Russian, 87 Tunisian, 77 Bosnian, 74 Macedonian, 71 German, 68 Yugoslav, 66 Romanian and 60 Greek citizens, while 564 were of some other nationality.

The officially repatriated persons numbered 298, of which 118 were Iraqi, 43 Nigerian, 21 Afghan, 12 Iranian, 12 Turkish, 8 Indian, 8 Somalian and 30 other nationals. In the same period **1987 persons were deported** (1255 in the same period of 2001).