



**WELCOME TO NORTH
MACEDONIA**



Some of the top destinations

- Ohrid



Some of the top destinations - Canyon Matka



Some of the top destinations - Krushevo



Some of the top destinations
St. Joakim Osogovski Monastery
The Colorful Mosque



Some of the top destinations

EAT LOCAL IN
NORTH MACEDONIA
www.tasteatlas.com/north-macedonia



Stip & Goce Delcev University







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Transnational Crime
Innovation: *How Human*
Trafficking Networks Adapt
to Migration Policies - North
Macedonian response during
the everlasting European
migrant crisis



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GOCE DELCEV
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF LAW



Illegal migrants in North Macedonia, by country of origin – where we were

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Afghanistan	16	57	65	134	291	95782	35079	963	2625	6249	12244
Albania	892	216	328	400	624	347	347	252	241	215	166
Iraq	1	4	1	4	3	54808	19508	250	959	501	541
Pakistan	0	23	88	73	21	5751	4143	1033	4970	7820	7349
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	0	116	570	216393	49633	476	582	1156	2683

Illegal migrants in North Macedonia– where are

2023	2024
13.957	6.809



Severe violation
of human rights

**What did we
detect as the
countries'
main issues?**

Problems with
distinguish SM
and HT





What did we detect as the countries' main issues?

Severe violation of human rights

- right to life
- prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment
- prohibition of all forms of slavery and forced labour
- right to private and family life
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- right to appeal to national authorities
- prohibition of discrimination
- prohibition of collective expulsion of aliens



Important to distinguish



For proper identification of trafficking victims and the activation of relevant assistance and protection mechanisms

Problems with distinguish SM and HT

Smuggled migrants, even subjected to hardship and abuse -not considered victims of crime or human rights violations →no right to support and assistance, remedies for the harm suffered or protection from possible further harm, penalized for violating immigration regimes.

Victims of trafficking are entitled to comprehensive assistance and protection, immunity from prosecution for any crimes or administrative offences that may have been committed due to their being trafficked.

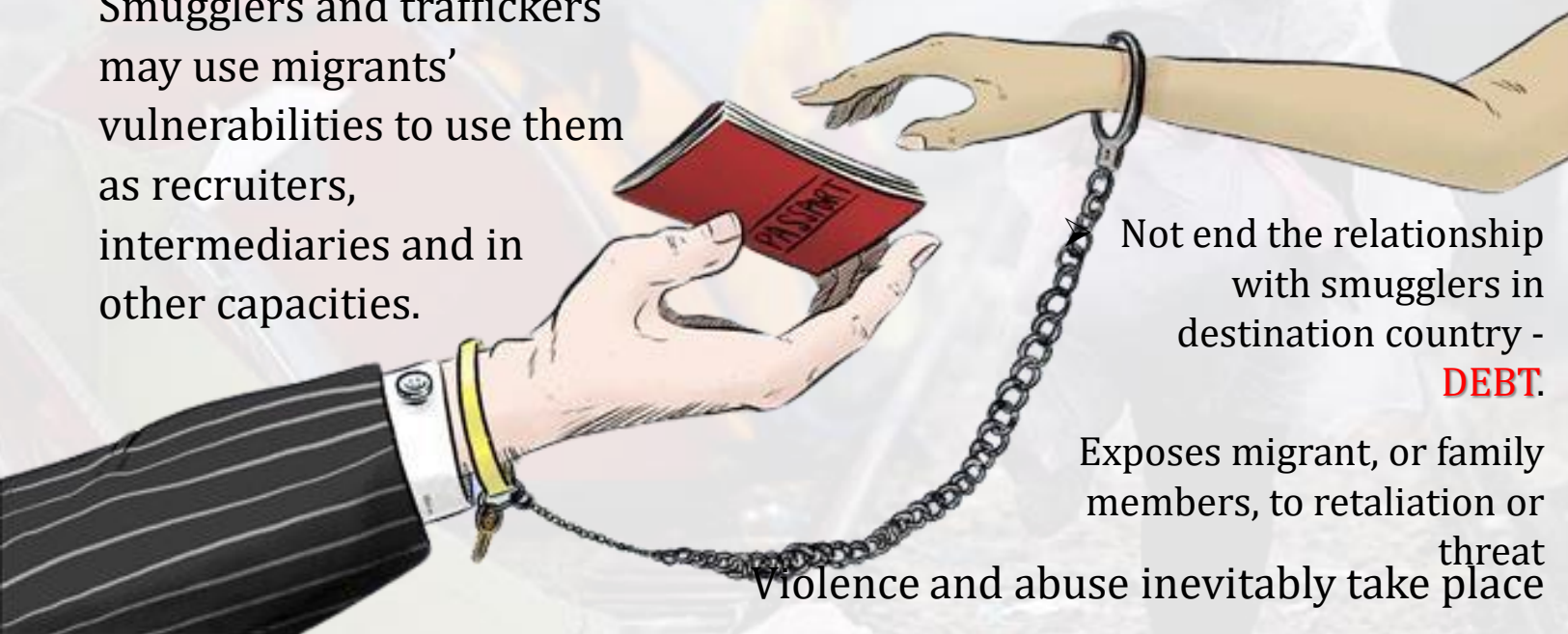


Scenarios under which migrants became a victim of HT during their journey:

- Migrants exposed to trafficking **after smuggled across the border.**

Smugglers → traffickers - turning them into sex slaves or selling them into forced labour

Smugglers and traffickers may use migrants' vulnerabilities to use them as recruiters, intermediaries and in other capacities.



Not end the relationship with smugglers in destination country - **DEBT.**

Exposes migrant, or family members, to retaliation or threat
Violence and abuse inevitably take place

- Exploitation - **prior to the migrants' arrival** - in the form of domestic servitude - victims, predominantly women, sexually abused, work in sweatshops or on construction sites, involved in crime...

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Was N. Macedonia ready for proper recognition:



„Article 120 and 121 of Law on Foreigners - status of the victims of human trafficking, guaranties the **reflection and recovery period** that can last up to two months (access to protection, assistance and recovery). In this period the victim has to decide - to co-operate, or return to their country of origin or legal residence.

This period can postpone when victims are minors. For victims of human trafficking and also for unaccompanied minors can be decided for a **temporary residence of up to year**, and this period can last longer if is necessary.“

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For proper recognition: Indicators for identifying suspected and potential victims of human trafficking in cases of mixed migration movements



General or indirect - indicators for identifying presumed or potential victims of trafficking in human beings, based on data obtained through previous experience, which confirm the stages of recruitment, transportation/transfer and purpose of exploitation

Direct or specific indicators - identify trafficking in human beings and victimization by confirming the three constituent elements of the act of trafficking/means and purpose

The process of identification of victims of human trafficking is carried out in two phases:

1. Initial/preliminary identification of a presumed or potential victim;
2. Final identification of a victim of human trafficking.

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Problems with distinguish SM and HT

What happened in practice:

Convicted adult perpetrators by types of criminal offences, type of sentence and sex, by year								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons	Total convicted persons
....Smuggling of migrants	75	50	39	59	52	90	111	106
....Organizing a group and inciting to commit the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling	5	2	-	-	11	5	5	2
....Human trafficking	1	1	6	-	-	1	3	5

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Pros

Cons

What happened in between,
2022 and 2023 :

number of professionals have been trained
to work with victims of trafficking

November 2022, the Parliament of North
Macedonia adopted the Law on Financial
Compensation to Victims of Violent
Crimes

The process of finding and recruiting victims
for sexual and labor exploitation, including
children, is increasingly taking place through
new forms of digital communication

no measures taken to overcome legal
obstacles that limit victims of trafficking in
human beings' access to free legal aid,
healthcare, and reintegration programs

2022, one person, minor, from Iraq was
identified as a presumed victim of human
trafficking. None in 2023

Foreign victims transiting the country -
exposed to HT for sexual and labor expl.
unaccompanied women and children -at
significant risk

Problems with distinguish SM and HT

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being trafficked.



Where are we 10 years after: The United States Annual Trafficking in Persons Report

The authorities of North Macedonia have not fully met the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons but have made significant efforts to do so ! Tier 2 -2024 – since 2016



local police and district prosecutors have not reported potential trafficking cases



frequent involvement of representatives in organized migrant smuggling groups



Irregular migrants and refugees traveling or being smuggled through North Macedonia are vulnerable to potential trafficking, especially women and unaccompanied minors.



the authorities have not allocated funds for mobile teams that identify most potential victims each year



Local police and some border officials did not check for indications of trafficking



continue to document police mistreatment of migrants, as well as illegal returns to Greece



increasing the vulnerability of migrant workers to forced and compulsory labor





Transnational Crime Innovation: How Human Trafficking Networks Adapt to Migration Policies - North Macedonian response during the everlasting European migrant crisis

-THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION-



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WE ARE 