



SWISS-BULGARIAN PROGRAM OF COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF THB AND THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, SUPPORT, RETURN & REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING



In European Union countries, 15'846 identified or presumed victims of human trafficking were registered for the period 2013-2014, according to a 2015 Eurostat report. As in the previous periods, Bulgaria was identified as one of the top five EU countries of citizenship of registered victims. The Swiss Federal Office of Police processed 34 cases of identified or presumed Bulgarian victims in Switzerland in 2013. Bulgaria ranks 3rd as country of origin of potential victims of trafficking in Switzerland. These statistics are believed to be only the tip of the iceberg as there are solid grounds to assert that the actual figures are substantially higher in Europe.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SWISS SUPPORT

With the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB) in the lead, a Bulgarian-Swiss program was conceived with the International Organization for Migration and the local NGO Animus. The program supports the process of identification, referral, assistance and reintegration of victims of trafficking in Bulgaria with knowledge exchange with, and technical assistance from, Swiss partners.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The key results of the program are the following:

- A multi-agency mobile team is established and operational to deal with alerts of trafficking (NCCTHB);
- Two shelters - one for adults and one for children - of 10 beds each are established by the NCCTHB in Sofia;
- Collaborative activities are conceived with Swiss authorities to prevent and identify victims (NCCTHB);
- A transit center for victims of trafficking in Sofia is operational (Animus);
- Bilateral guidelines for identification, protection, and referral of victims of trafficking are developed for Switzerland and Bulgaria (Animus);
- Yearly prevention campaigns against labour exploitation are conducted (Animus);
- Returned victims of trafficking are assisted and reintegrated (IOM);
- A national hotline provides initial assistance to victims of trafficking (IOM).

ACTIVITIES

To reach these results, the program conducted or shall conduct the following activities (selection):

- Jointly with Fedpol, the NCCTHB organized a practice exchange workshop and two study visits in Bulgaria and Switzerland;
- IOM conducted two trainings on identification and referral of victims of trafficking for 80 participants from the National authorities and civil society;
- Animus conducted 19 workshops for at-risk children and teenagers on trafficking with 126 participants; 3 more workshops will be conducted in 2018;

- Since the inception of the programme, 133 victims were assisted by IOM, 151 by Animus and 13 by NCCTHB;
- IOM operates a national hotline 24/7 for first assistance and orientation of victims of trafficking since 2015;
- The NCCTHB rents two houses with 10 beds each for children and for adults in Sofia and conducts negotiations with the state for a permanent and sustainable solution;
- The 34-bed transit center for victims of trafficking operated by Animus accommodated so far 64 victims and assisted socially and psychologically 76 victims;
- With its Swiss partners, Animus developed bilateral guidelines for identification, protection, and referral of victims of trafficking;
- Fedpol and the NCCTHB conducted a joint Action Week in Switzerland in March 2018;
- Animus conducts a national campaign against labour exploitation every year since 2015.

CONTACT

EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

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KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM

FOCUS AREA

Human Trafficking

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

GOALS

Improved identification, referral and assistance to victims of trafficking in Bulgaria and Switzerland with a robust collaboration with Swiss authorities and civil society

EXPECTED RESULTS

Increased capacity of Bulgarian actors to prevent, identify, refer, and assist victims of trafficking;
 Improved collaboration between Bulgaria and Switzerland in matters of human trafficking.

TARGET GROUP

- Law enforcement agencies
- Civil society specialized in assistance to victims of trafficking
- Victims of trafficking

EXECUTING AGENCIES

- National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Animus Association

PARTNERS

- FEDPOL, Switzerland
- FIZ, Switzerland
- ICMPD and Drehscheibe, Austria

BUDGET

CHF 2'112'853
 (Swiss contribution CHF 1'863'477)

DURATION

2015-2018

For more information, visit :
<http://swiss-contribution.bg/en/funds/security>

SWISS PARTNERS

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SWISS-BULGARIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME
 ШВЕЙЦАРСКО-БЪЛГАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION

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www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch