



**STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FOR  
INTEGRATED RETURN  
MANAGEMENT  
(2011 – 2013)**



# Necessity of establishment of the Strategic Programme

- The accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Schengen area will lead in the next few years to increased migration pressure on the country;
- Main instrument for decreasing illegal migration is the return policy;
- Basic priority of the national migration policy, set in the National Migration Strategy is the return policy with preference to voluntary return;
- Need to review the legislative base, the institutional capacity and the cooperation in the area of return.



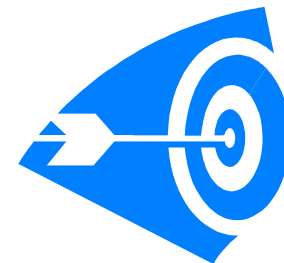
# Purpose

- Establishment of institutional and legislative frame for undertaking the appropriate measures that will guarantee the integrated management of the return of third country nationals .

**This will ensure the following achievements:**



# Purpose

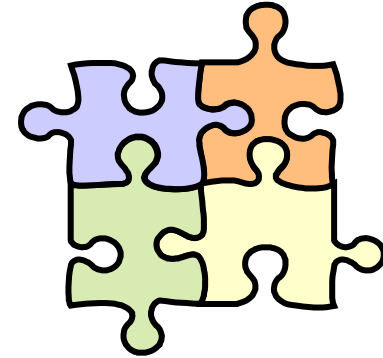


- More returned and successfully reintegrated persons;
- Decreasing the time and the expenses for return;
- Mutually enhancing effect of the voluntary and forced return;
- Increased volume of information and operational cooperation with third countries and the member states



# Principles

- **RULE OF LAW**
- **NON DISCRIMINATION**
- **AWARENESS OF THE TARGET GROUPS**
- **EFFECTIVENESS**
- **PROPORTIONALITY**
- **BALANCE AND HUMANENESS**



# Priorities



- Promotion of voluntary return;
- Special approach to vulnerable persons;
- Supporting of durable and sustainable reintegration in the countries of origin;
- Improving the international cooperation with the countries of origin at all stages of the return process in order to achieve lasting return of the persons.



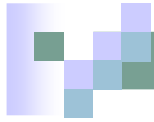


# Target Groups

**Third country nationals who have submitted an asylum application , and the applications has not yet been rejected .**

**All third country nationals who in general or at the moment do not meet anymore the conditions to the requirements for entry and/or residence in the country and who are obliged to leave its territory and can benefit from voluntary return**

**Third country nationals who have acquired a refugee status, a humanitarian status or temporary asylum in the Republic of Bulgaria and can benefit from the voluntary return option**



# **Present situation**

## **Institutional Framework**

**National Council for Migration Policy**

**Coordination and implementation  
of force return procedures  
MoI, SANS. MFA**

**Voluntary return  
MoI, SAR, MFA, NGO,  
international organizations**





## Normative arrangements

- Law for the foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Law for Asylum and Refugees;
- Ordinance on the implementation of Regulation 343 (Dublin Regulation).




# Voluntary Return Procedure

- A period of 7 to 30 days in which the illegally staying third country national should leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria
- The extension of the term for leaving the country is through a request to the competent authority;
- The term for leaving can be extended for not longer than one year;
- There is no option for voluntary return if the person concerned is a threat for the national security or the public order.

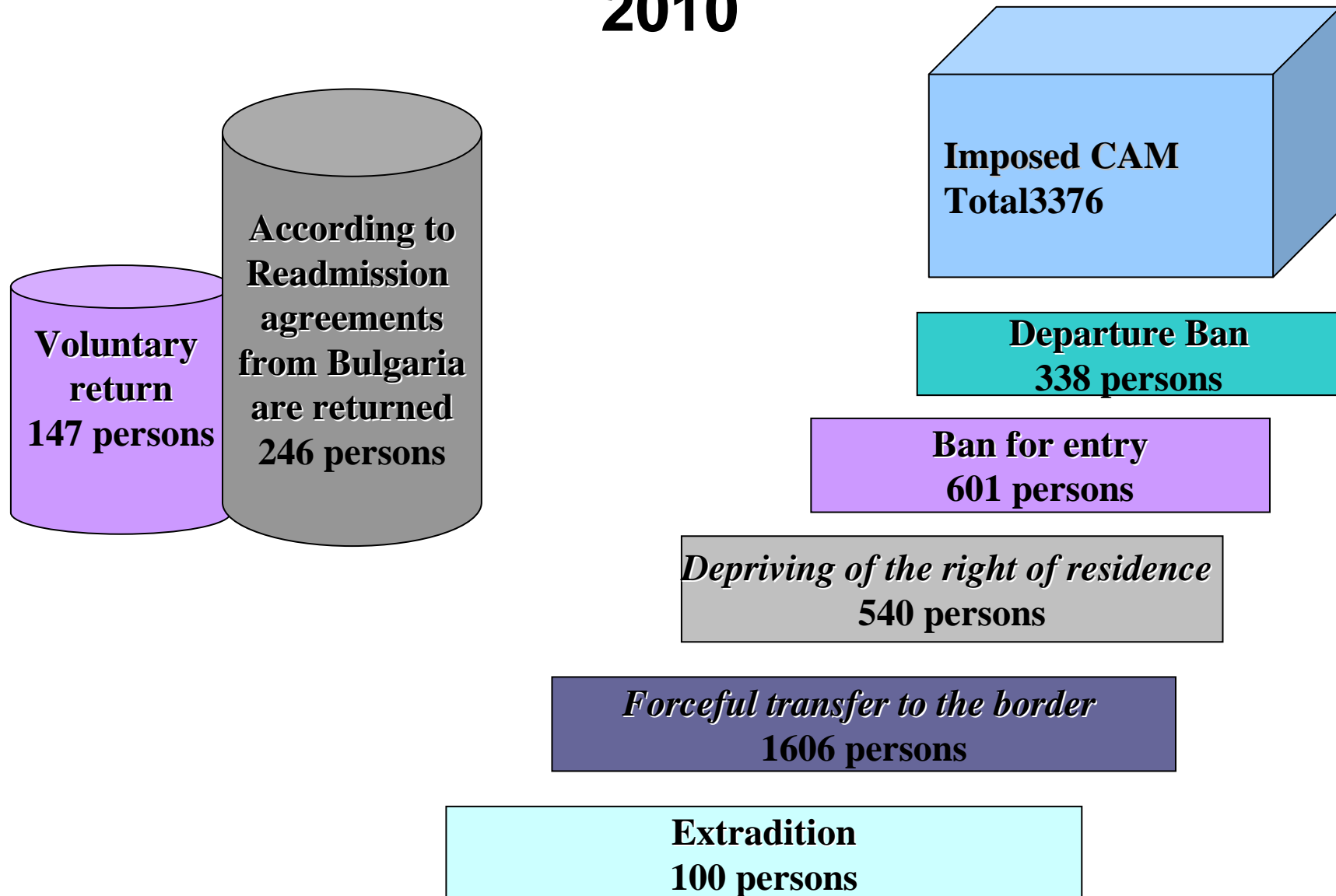


# Forced Return Procedure

- **Forced return procedures are implemented as a measure of last resort;**
- **The implementation is subject to the principle of proportionality and effectiveness of the undertaken measures and the pursued goals;**
- **The mechanisms for forced return and readmission are regulated in the following acts and documents:**
  - *1. Bilateral readmission agreements and EU level readmission agreements;*
  - *2. Legislative mechanisms;*
  - *3. „Twenty Guidelines on Forced Return” of the Council of Europe, 2005.*

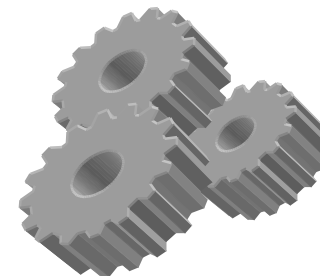


# Statistics 2010





# Problems



- Insufficient administrative capacity of the officers working in the field and poor structural organization of the competent units;
- The cooperation between the administrative control services for foreign citizens and the consular services and representatives of the countries of origin is not at the necessary level;
- 
- Missing information and updated lists of safe third countries. Such lists should be prepared by MFA (by the network of consular services);



## Measures for building effective integrated management of return in the Republic of Bulgaria.

- *1. Review of the normative acts in the field of return and assessment of the necessity for future amendments:*
  - Introduction of the so called “tolerance status”;
  - Introduction of alternative forms of detention for persons with imposed CAM belonging to the “vulnerable persons” category;
  - Introduction of the term “assisted voluntary return”;
- *Strengthening the institutional capacity in the area of obtaining of documents and return;*
- *Ensuring the access of information of the target groups at the earliest possible stage.*



## **Measures for building effective integrated management of return in the Republic of Bulgaria.**

- Identification of persons at the earliest possible stage ;
- Strengthening the cooperation with third countries;
- Promoting the development and implementation of targeted programmes for assisted voluntary return and reintegration;
- Promoting the development and implementation of special programmes for assisted voluntary return of vulnerable groups.



## **Measures for building effective integrated management of return in the Republic of Bulgaria**

- Consolidation and development of the cooperation with the countries of origin with a focus on the assisted voluntary return and reintegration.
- Strengthening the cooperation with international and non-government organizations in the field of assisted voluntary return;
- Intensification of the negotiation process for concluding readmission agreements with important countries of origin and transit of illegal migrant flows to Bulgaria at both bilateral and EU level .



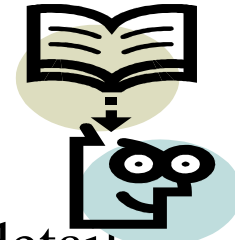


## **Measures for building effective integrated management of return in the Republic of Bulgaria**

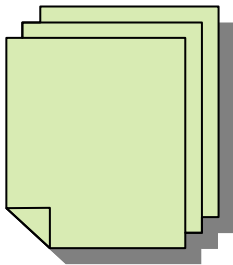
- Improving the inter-institutional cooperation and the coordination between all the ministries responsible of the management of return;
- Promoting the professionalism and training of the entire staff ;
- Strengthening the institutional capacity in the field of detention;
- Strengthening the cooperation with the EU member states and the Agency Frontex;
- Creating a database.



# Mechanisms of implementation and assessment



- **Implementation:** plan with concrete measures and detailed terms for implementation.
  
- **Assessment:** annual reports.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**