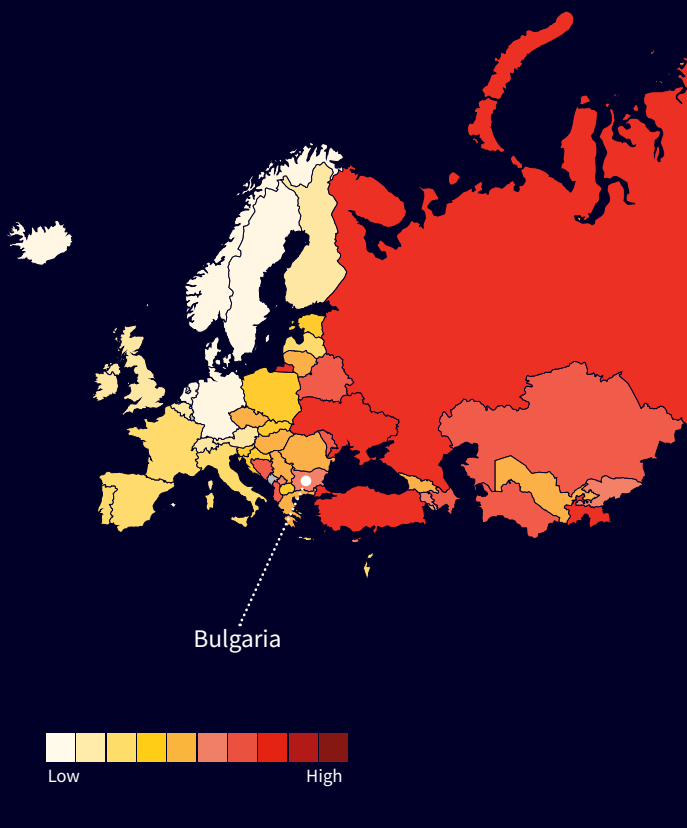


# Modern slavery in Bulgaria

## Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



**Figure 1.**  
Prevalence of modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia



### KEY STATS

Population (2021) 6,948,445

GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl \$) \$24,564

**8.5**

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

**59,000**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

**26/100**

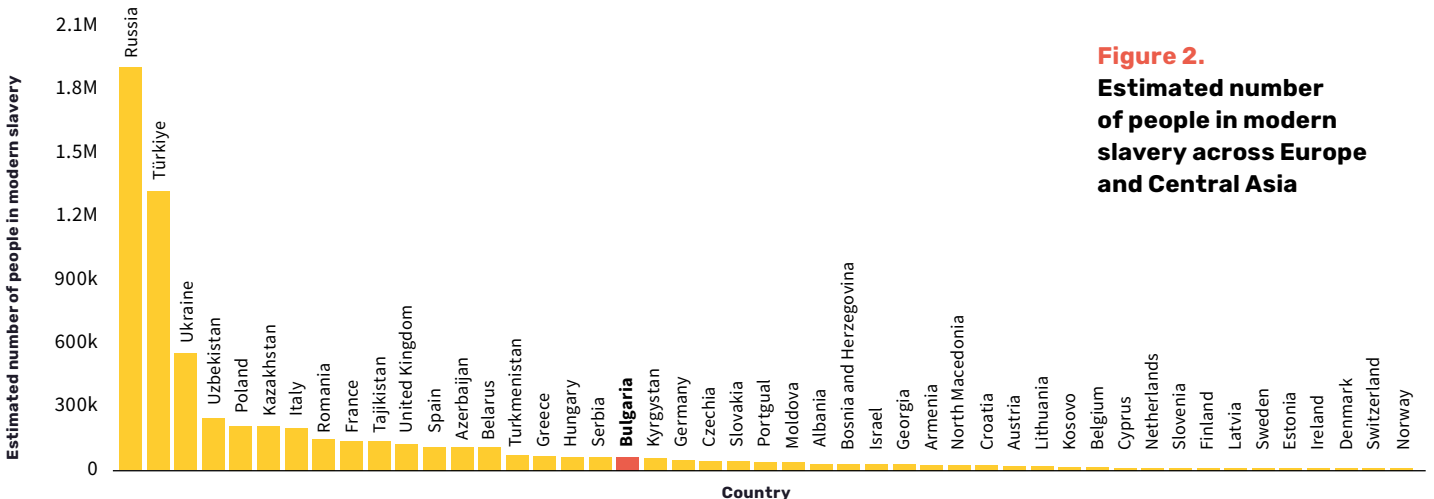
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

**55/100**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

### The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 8.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Bulgaria at any point in 2021. In other words, 59,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Bulgaria in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Bulgaria ranks 29th globally and 15th within Europe and Central Asia.



**Figure 2.**  
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia

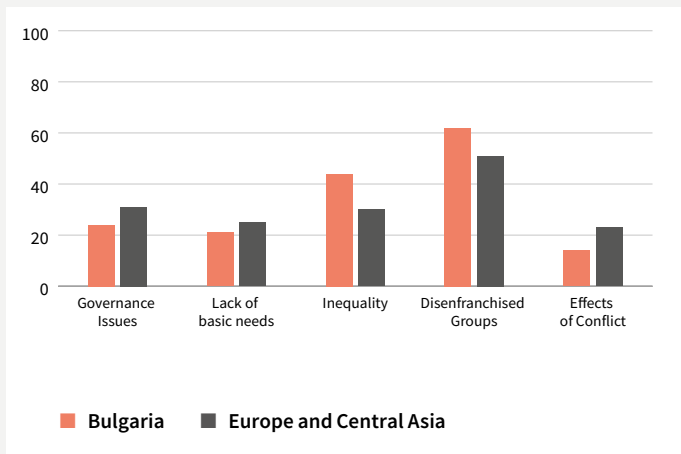
# Modern slavery in Bulgaria

Global Slavery Index 2023  
Country Snapshot

## Vulnerability to modern slavery

How vulnerable a country's people are to modern slavery is dependent on a range of factors which reflect the strength of governance, access to basic needs, inequality, disenfranchised groups, and effects of conflict. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest vulnerability to modern slavery, Bulgaria is rated as 26 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

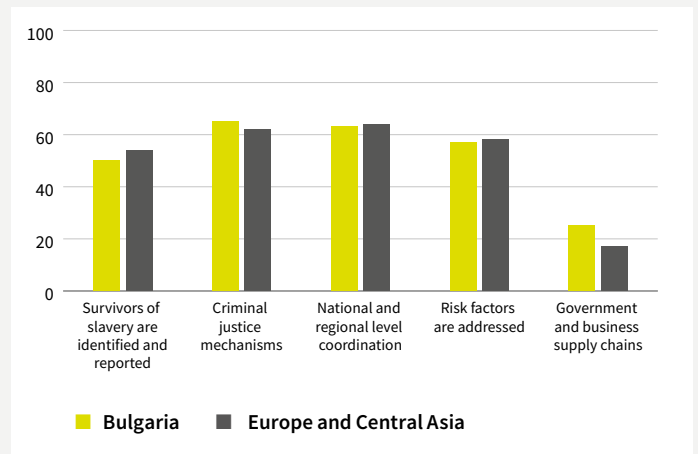
**Figure 3.**  
Vulnerability of Bulgaria to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average



## Government response to modern slavery

The government of Bulgaria scored 55 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government's response above the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on effective criminal justice mechanisms and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

**Figure 4.**  
Response of the government of Bulgaria to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average



## Priority Recommendations for the government of Bulgaria:

- 1 Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
- 2 Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.
- 3 Enact and enforce laws that criminalise corruption in the public sector.

**THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023**

**WALK FREE**

For more information on modern slavery, visit the Global Slavery Index 2023 website.