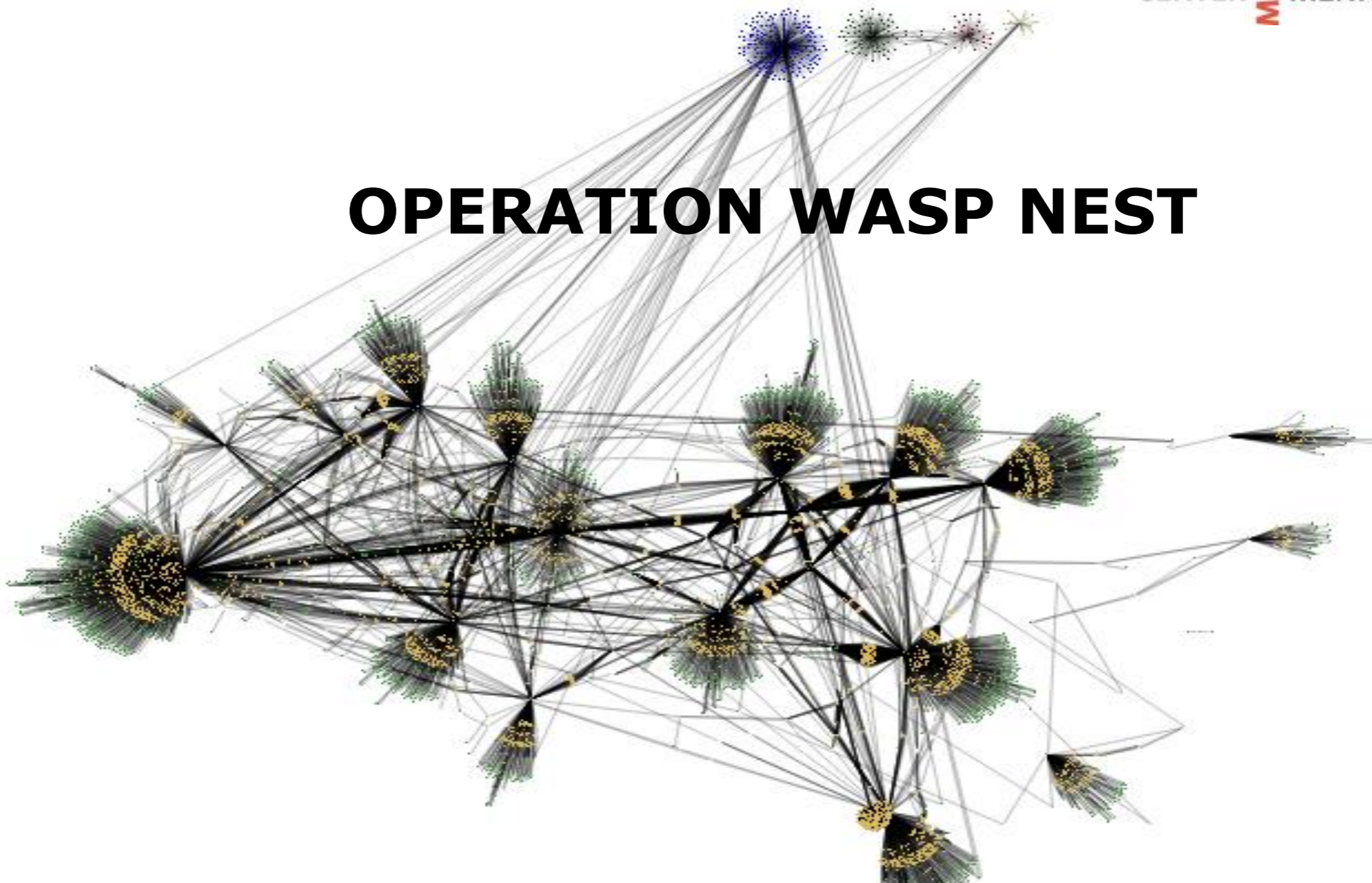


OPERATION WASP NEST



OSCE 16th ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS Conference
Vienna, Hofburg 11-12th April, 2016

Anne Vallentin
Detective Inspector

Anders Lisborg
Senior Advisor



OPERATION WASP NEST

- **25th February 2015, Danish Police in coordination with the Danish Anti-Trafficking Centre raided 64 locations and arrested 98 persons**

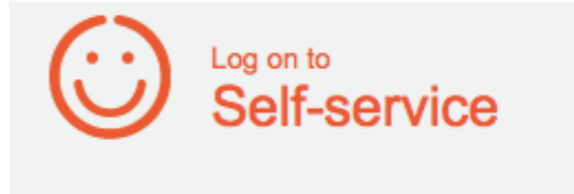
- **A unique because:**
 - **First case of trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality**
 - **New forms of crime and modus (ID theft, fraud etc.)**
 - **Largest human trafficking case in Denmark**
 - 300+ persons exploited, 30+ persons identified as victims of trafficking.
 - 22 persons charged for various crimes.
 - **3-8years sentences: 15 persons convicted of THB (district court). 5 still pending. 1 abscond prosecution, international arrest warrant. (cases appealed to high court)**
 - **Most victims were men – new challenges assisting groups of male victims**
 - **The case is an example of national and international inter-agency cooperation in combating THB, prosecution of traffickers and victim protection.**
 - **Return and 6 months reintegration assistance within the EU + follow up monitoring**

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From a theft case to THB, Summer 2014

- Discovered by coincidence by Copenhagen Police
- Case evolved – placed in task force
 - Put their hands into a Wasp Nest
- Several indicators of THB
- NCI THB Expert joins the team



Modus operandi

Step 1: Recruitment & transport

- The mastermind contacts a recruiter (middleman) in Romania.
- The recruiter contacts an vulnerable Romanian person (victim), and offers him a job in Denmark.
- The victim is transported to Denmark.
- The traffickers houses the victim in different parts of Zealand/Denmark.



Modus operandi

Step II: Habouring, housing and registration (ID)

- Placed in cheap houses in the country side. Poor conditions and not maintained by the traffickers.
- Makes sure they have cigarettes and food – then there were no complains
- Brings the victim to the municipality, where he, with real identity papers but falsified employment contracts, gets a danish ID (CPR).



Modus operandi

Step III: Deception into various forms of crime

- Then an NEM-ID is received
- With an NEM-ID and an CPR-ID you are a trusted person in Denmark, and it's possible to have contact online with banks, money lenders, the tax authorities etc.
- Some victims has been escorted to different shops to buy cars, electronic devises



Modus operandi

Step III: Deception into various forms of crime

- The victim is placed as a CEO of a company
- The victim is sent back to Romania without getting a part of the profit – he only gets a small pay.
- Doesn't live in the house in which he is registered
- Doesn't know what crime is made in his name.
- Don't know the real reason why they were brought to Dk
- Recruited from poor areas – few job opportunities
- Promised jobs and opportunities
- Older than 30 years old, none or limited english language skills



Crimes

- **TAX fraud**
 - Fake paychecks
- **VAT fraud**
- **Credit companies**
 - Vivus
 - Handelsfinans, etc.
 - SMS-loans (credit)
 - Kvik loans (credit)
 - Express bank
 - Santander
 - Trust buddy
 - LO-kort
- **Gasolin cards,**
(SHELL, Statoil etc.)
- **Maternity payments**
- **Unemployment insurance**
- **Car leasing**
- **Sale of identification** for the purpose of buying cars.
 - Insurance Fraud
- **Appliances**
- Mobile phones (iPhone, HTC etc.)
- **Social security payments**
- **Online shopping.**
 - H&M
 - Ellos
 - Urkongerne (watches)



The profit

- Pr. victim (250-300 persons)
 - Aprox. 24.000 Euro if selling credit cards
 - A "roma-package" containing 1 id, 1 private account, 1 company and 1 company account sold for aprox. 6.700 Euro
 - Credit card companies / money lenders
 - up to 20 different companies
 - Between 500 Euro and 6.600 Euro
 - TAX
 - variable but seen up to aprox. 13.200 Euro
 - Est. 1.800.000 Euro
- 5 – 10 cars
 - value up to 35.000 Euro
- **Estimation: Fraud for at least 7.200.000 Euro (entire organisation)**



Investigation techniques & tools

- Interception (phone tapping) – aprox. 30
- Secret house searches – 2
- Opening of letters – 8
- Open house searches – 60-70
- Orders for 3rd parties to give information – countless.
- Serveillance Teams



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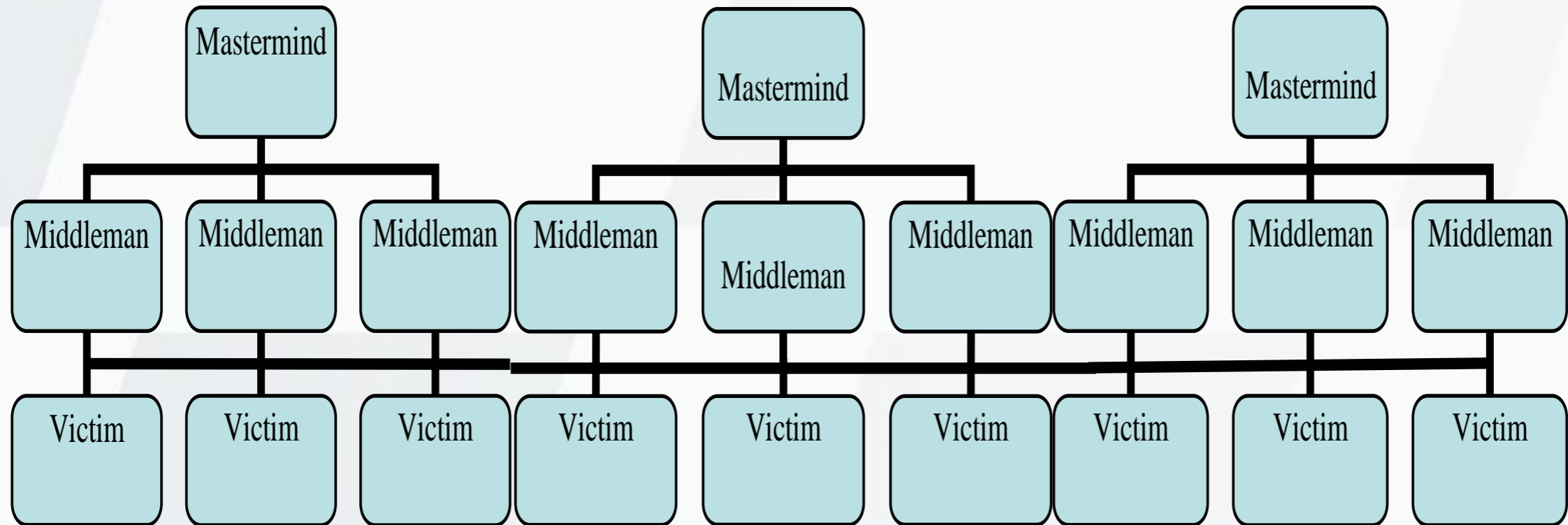
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The best evidence is statements
from the victims



The Organisation



Action day – February 25th 2015

- 387 Police officers all over Denmark
- 64 house searches
- 98 arrests
- 22 middlemen and masterminds
 - 21 in custody
- 76 Victims, all Romanians – aprox. 30+ declared victims of THB by CMM (Centre against human trafficking).
- Multidisciplinary cooperation: Tax department, Immigration service





CMM / Police

- **Combining two different tracks**
 - Investigate, prosecute and convict the traffickers
 - The victim approach (Victim identification, protection & assistance)



Investigation in Romania - JIT

- THB
 - Recruitment
 - Identify recruiters
 - Identify victims
 - Transport
 - Identify routes
 - Deception
 - Questioning victims
- Find and seize stolen goods, or other profit, generated from the crime
 - Seize houses and valuables
 - Find and seize cars
 - Seize bank accounts



ACTION IN ROMANIA

- 10th of March 2016
- 20 house searches / 20 suspects
- 8 persons arrested
- seized approx. 265.000 EUR



CONVICTIONS



- 2 convictions in District Court
- 15 for THB and organized fraud, tax fraud and data fraud
 - 3 - 7 years and 11 month imprisonment
 - Fraud for the amount between 480.000 - 1.300.000 Euro for a period of 14 month.
- All Romanian (15) has been expelled for life.
- Appeal for High Court.
- Still waiting for the last conviction, which will be in the beginning of July.



Victims ID, Protection & Assistance incl. R&R

- Victims identified by CMM (screening interviews)
- Immediate assistance, - housing etc.
- Assisted voluntary return to Romania
- Reintegration assistance (6months support in home area)
- Monitoring mission & follow-up



- National Capital (2,080,000 in 2003)
- over 300,000
- over 100,000
- over 50,000
- other municipalities
- other cities
- Chief town

Day 1
Day 2
Day 3

ROMANIA

0 km 26 52 78 km

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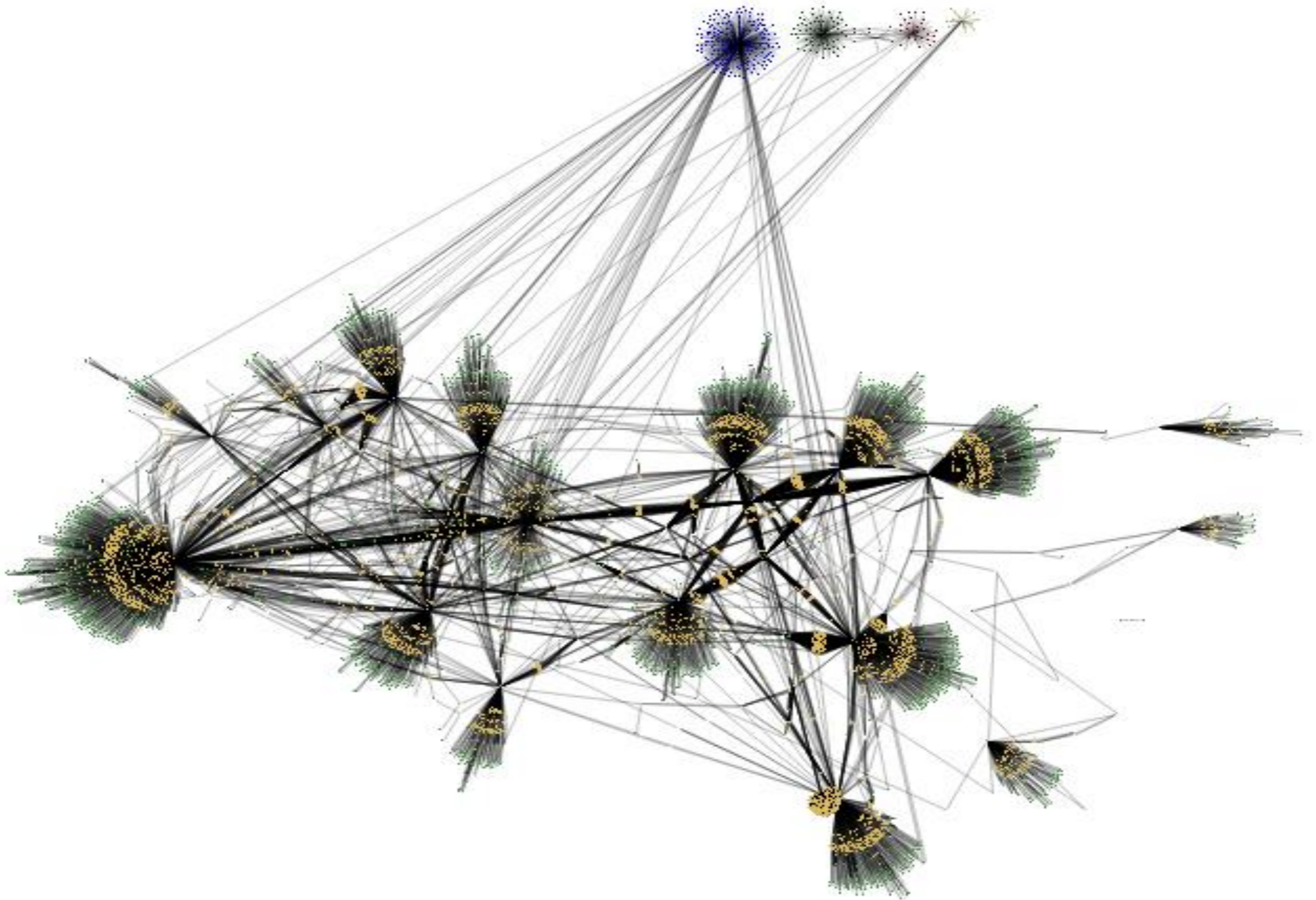




GOOD PRACTICES & LESSONS LEARNED

- **The complexity of THB** (complex new forms of crimes and exploitation)
Important to pro-active investigations
- **Successful Inter-agency cooperation:**
 - **National:** Police, CMM anti-trafficking Centre, Tax authorities, Immigration Services, NGO's
 - **International:** Romanian Police (JIT), IOM, local NGO (Adpara)
- **Need for interagency vigilance /guidelines** (observe and report)
 - The importance of THB training to authorities / stakeholders
- **Effective victims protection & assistance**, also to encourage witness statements





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THANK YOU

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