

European program

2009 Highlights

In 2009 the activities of the European Program were focused on two primary issues: 1. research on the dynamics of conventional and organized crime; 2. necessary reforms in the security sector and crime prevention.

- **Crime prevention and monitoring.** For a sixth consecutive year, the European Program carried out the study of crime trends in Bulgaria. The results and conclusions were published in the *Conventional Crime in Bulgaria: Levels and Trends* report and were presented at a seminar.
- **Security sector reform.** CSD analyzed the current situation in the security sector and outlined necessary reforms. The findings of the analysis were presented in a report at a round table discussion.
- **Prevention of organized crime.** The European Program continued to exchange best practices with European partners aimed at creating the pre-conditions for applying advanced European methods for organized crime threat assessment.
- **Broadening the scope of research.** In 2009 CSD carried out a study on the link between organized crime and corruption in the 27 EU Member States and drafted a report summarizing the findings and key recommendations.

I. Crime Prevention and Monitoring

The study of crime trends in Bulgaria is among the key areas of expertise and long-term priorities of the European Program. In May 2009 the program presented the results and conclusions of the annual study of crime trends in Bulgaria at a seminar entitled "Conventional Crime in Bulgaria in 2007 – 2008: Implementing Good Practices in the Field of Monitoring of Justice and Home Affairs".

Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at the Center for the Study of Democracy presented the dynamics of conventional crime for the period 2007 – 2008, comparing data from the National Crime Survey

(NCS) with official police statistics. The survey was carried out by CSD for a sixth consecutive year, relying on methodology used by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in the International Crime Victims Study (ICVS) and the European Union International Crime Victims Study (EUICVS). The reasons for the gap between the official statistics and those of the victimization surveys are tied to factors that influence the dynamics of conventional crime: Bulgarian citizens rarely report crime to the police and the average level of crime notifications with the police in Bulgaria are much lower than those in other European countries. Strengthening of civic and administrative oversight over the police and expanding

activities aimed at increasing public trust in the institution are necessary steps towards reversing this negative tendency. According to CSD analysis the economic crisis will influence negatively the level of conventional crime in the country.

Mr. Pavlin Dimitrov, Chief Commissioner at the Ministry of Interior outlined the institution's priorities to enhance preventative measures and increase the qualification and motivation of Ministry of Interior personnel. Mr. Dimitrov commended the good partnership between the Ministry of Interior and the Center for the Study of Democracy and stated that the independent collection of crime victimization data is beneficial to the ministry and to society as a whole.

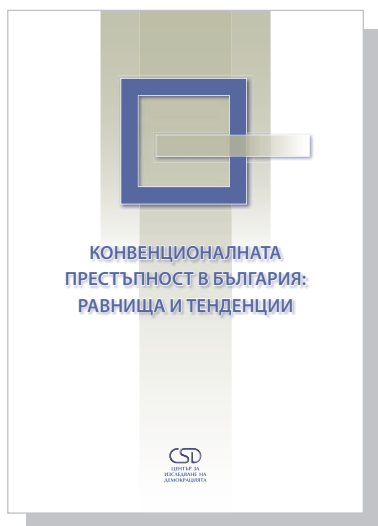
The participants at the seminar discussed different approaches for analyzing and

combating conventional crime in the country and the need for modernizing the police force. The participants pointed out that some of the identified tendencies are early warning signals of the aggravation of the economic situation in the country.

In the report *Conventional Crime: Levels and Trends* published in Bulgarian by CSD in 2009 Dr. Emil Tsenkov, Senior Fellow at CSD analyzed the most sensitive from a citizen's perspective occurrences of conventional crime. Victimization surveys and the analysis of conventional crime reveal that the levels and trends in conventional crime determine the overall criminal situation in the country. The need for increasing law enforcement effectiveness to combat convention crime has become one the gravest social problems and one of the most important priorities after



From left to right: Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy; Mr. Pavlin Dimitrov, Chief Commissioner, and Dr Ognian Shentov, Chairman, Center for the Study of Democracy



Bulgaria's EU accession. In this context, specialized state institutions can no longer monopolize the assessment of the level of conventional crime and of the activities of the police. The dynamics of conventional crime needs to be assessed

according to recognized and transparent standards, criteria and methods.

II. The Police in Modern Society: The Necessary Reform in Bulgaria

On August 25, 2009 CSD and the Parliamentary Internal Security and Public Order Committee organized a round table dedicated to home affairs issues, the current state of the national police and the necessary reforms in order to increase public trust in the force.

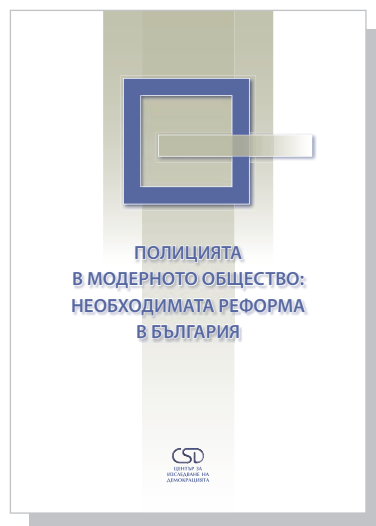
In his introductory speech, Dr. Ognian Shentov, Chairman of CSD remarked that police reform needs to be part of the overall reform of the security sector in Bulgaria. There are three key preconditions for success: political will for change, active civil society and the involvement of Bulgaria's Euro-Atlantic partners. In Dr. Shentov's view, for the first time in a long while all three pre-



The participants at the presentation of the report Police in Modern Society

requisites are now present in Bulgaria. Ambassador John Ordway, Charge D’Affairs ad interim at the Embassy of the United States in Bulgaria underlined that citizens’ trust in the police is of key importance to the results of law enforcement authorities. With regards to the role of transatlantic partners, Ambassador Ordway noted that the technical assistance and operational cooperation provided by the US to Bulgaria had so far yielded positive results, especially in the field of combating drug trafficking.

Mr. Chavdar Chervenkov, Director of the European Program at CSD presented the report *Police in Modern Society: the Necessary Reforms in Bulgaria*. The conclusions on the state of the security sector and the Bulgarian police are based upon an analysis of Eurostat data, official statistics of the Ministry of Interior and CSD victimization surveys

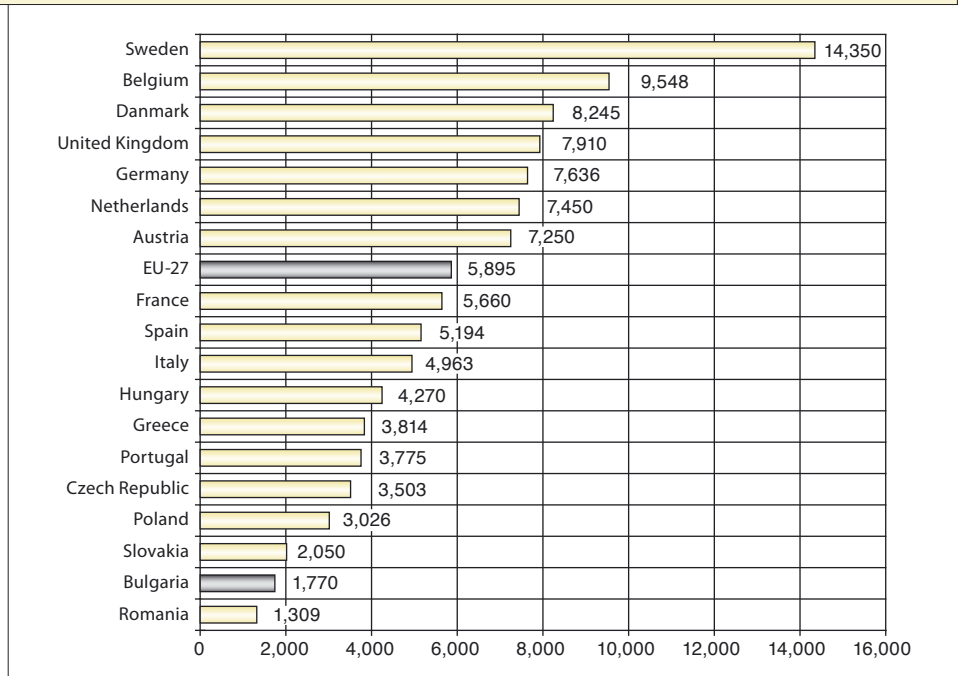


for the past two years. Although statistical data should be interpreted with caution the comparison of key indicators of the efficiency of law enforcement in



From left to right: Mr. Hirsto Angelov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice, Ambassador John Ordway, Charge D’Affairs ad interim at the Embassy of the United States in Bulgari, Dr Ognian Shentov, Chairman, CSD, and Mr. Tzvetan Tzvetanov, Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Interior

Figure 6. Number of crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, registered by the police in 2007 (Eurostat)



Bulgaria and the EU reveals a disturbing discrepancy between the number of policemen and their efficiency in Bulgaria and the same indicators for other EU Member States. For instance, in 2007 the crimes registered in Bulgaria were 8 times less than those registered in Sweden, 5.4 times less than those registered in Belgium, 4.5 times less than the levels or registered crimes in the UK, 4 times less than in Austria, and 2.4 times less than the respective levels in Hungary.

At the same time, the number of employees in the Bulgarian law enforcement is higher than the EU average. It is also higher than the number of police officers in older EU Member States.

The results of CSD victimization surveys also reveal unfavorable trends.

Analysis of the data reveals that the Bulgarian society remains distrustful towards law enforcement and skeptical towards the results of combating crime in the country. Many citizens do not seek collaboration with the police in registering or preventing crime. The lack of citizens collaboration, combined with police filters in registering a crime, give a distorted picture of the level of crime in the country.

This presents serious risks to police-citizens relations and affects negatively the state of security in the country as a whole. The report formulates several recommendations to the different stages of police reform:

- drafting a White Paper on Domestic Security, as part of a new National Security Strategy;

**Figure 7. Number of police officers per 100,000 inhabitants (2007)
(for the Bulgaria – total number of the police officers – 32,000)
(Eurostat)**

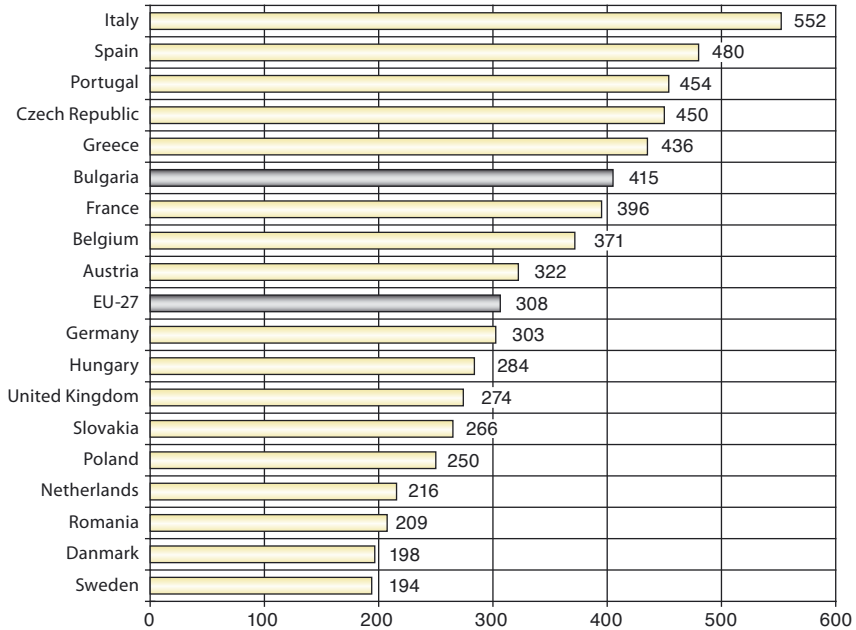
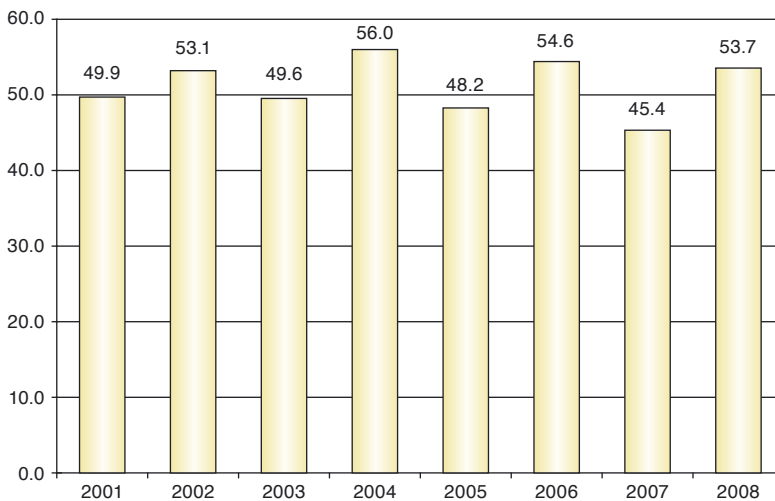


Figure 8. Percentage of crime registered with the police (in %)



- incorporating police activities into the overall government policy through the development of national system of indicators for effectiveness assessment;
- reassessing security policies, establishing a new method for financing the system of domestic security.

The main objective of the reform should be to increase transparency of the system, to enhance instruments for public control and to bring the security services closer to the citizen as the end consumer.

According to the Deputy Chief Prosecutor Mr. Valery Purvanov, the main reason for the discrepancy between the statistics of the Ministry of Interior and the Chief Prosecutor's Office is the malfunctioning of the Common Integrated

Information System between law enforcement and the judiciary. There is an imminent need for technical modernization of the police and a significant improvement of its quality of work, as the low quality of collected evidence is related to low effectiveness of the judicial system.

Around 600,000 criminal proceedings were terminated during 2008 for the reason of unknown perpetrator and expired statute of limitation and another 600,000 proceedings are likely to be terminated in 2009 for the same reason.

According to Mr. Tzvetan Tzvetanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, the main goal of the reform of the Ministry of the Interior is to regain the citizens' trust in the system. After the initial measures to improve the coor-



From left to right: Mr. Armin Herfort, Liaison Officer, German Embassy, Mr. Wolfgang Wendel, Counsellor, German Embassy, Mr. Reinhard Kreuzer, Federal Criminal Police Office, Germany/(Bundeskriminalamt), Ms Ursula Toettel, Detective Chief Inspector, Federal Criminal Police Office, Germany, and Dr Ognian Shentov, Chairman, CSD

dination between the law enforcement and the judiciary are put in place, the next step would be to establish an integrated information system. According to Mr. Tzvetanov broad political consensus, maximum transparency and direct participation of civil society are prerequisites for the the success of the reform.

III. Combating Organized Crime

As part of the process of exchange of best practices in the field of research and monitoring of organized crime CSD organized on July 1 a working group meeting with the Federal Criminal Police of Germany, the Serious Organized Crime Agency of the UK (SOCA) and the German Embassy in Bulgaria.

The role of the federal police in carrying out analysis and drafting laws to combat organized crime was presented by Ms Ursula Toettel, Detective Chief Inspector

at the Federal Criminal Police in Germany. The goal of the Federal Criminal Police is to apply innovative research methods in the process of combating organized crime. As part of its current activities, the federal police implements joint projects and exchange of information initiatives with countries from Southeast Europe. The federal police also supports victims of human trafficking.

Mr. Nikolay Tagarov, Senior Analyst at the Center for the Study of Democracy, presented the study of the link between corruption and organized crime in 27 EU Member States. Mr. Tagarov outlined CSD's previous experience in researching organized crime. He spoke of the indirect link between the level of corruption and GDP, whereas lower percentage of GDP is normally tied to higher levels of corruption.

Dr. Emil Tsenkov, Senior Fellow at CSD, discussed problems related to trade in



From left to right: Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst, CSD, and Dr. Emil Tsenkov, Senior Fellow, CSD

antiques and the need for formulating adequate policies to combat this type of crime. The antiques market is well structured and is divided between internal trade channels and international trafficking routes. Currently, in the EU the largest number of antiques from Roman, Hellenic and Thracian period were discovered in Bulgaria. This outlines the scope and gravity of the problem with their illegal trade. The politicians do not take a stance or discuss the problem due to personal gains or lack of interest and the legal framework to combat this phenomenon is not in place.

Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at CSD presented the main findings of CSD research on the origins and structure of organized crime in the country. The research identifies three types of criminal groups in Bulgaria – underground entrepreneurs, oligarchs and violent entrepreneurs. The level of organized crime in Bulgaria matches that in Russia, the Ukraine and Nigeria – countries with much larger populations.

IV. Corruption and Organized Crime in the Member States of the European Union

The European Program carried out an EC commissioned study on the link between corruption and organized crime in the 27 EU Member States. The results and recommendations of the study were summarized in a final report, which aims to contribute to the development of effective policies on the combating of corruption and organized crime and to add to the exchange of good practices in the field.

The study's objective was to analyze the main reasons and factors, which predispose the use of corruption by organized crime, to identify and analyze the main corruption mechanisms and to

delineate the scope and effect of corruption on public institutions and society as whole, taking into account local as well as regional differences. For this purpose, the research team carried out 156 interviews in 27 countries, literature review on the topic as well as a series of statistical analyses.

The statistical analysis revealed different levels of intensity of corruption among EU Member States, thereby allowing the delineation of 7 clusters of countries with different levels of corruption and organized crime. The research identified the different social, cultural and historical factors in the EU, which influence the ways that organized crime exercises corruption in the public and private sector.

The study analyzes the corruption pressure exercised by organized crime on the political elite, the police, the judiciary, the customs and the private sector. The research identifies the different corruption models and mechanisms and the factors predisposing the use of corruption by organized crime. The analysis discusses the most affected hierarchical levels within public institutions, as well as the vulnerability of the institutions on national and local levels.

The corruption pressure exercised by organized crime on institutions is also analyzed from a market perspective. The study outlines the corruption mechanisms exercised for the functioning of different illegal markets such as cigarette smuggling, trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, drug smuggling, vehicle theft, extortion and racketeering.

As part of the study the researchers carried out six in-depth case studies on the link between corruption and organized crime in Italy, France, Holland, Spain, Bulgaria and Greece. The authors provide a social, historical and cultural

analysis of the origins of organized crime in the six countries, outline the most affected sectors, regions and institutions and outline the measures taken by the authorities to combat corruption and organized crime.

The final report of the study addresses concrete recommendation to the European Commission and to the European Member States for strengthening of the mechanisms for combating corruption and organized crime.