

Law Program

In 2015, the Law Program's efforts were focused on four main topics: public confidence in justice, judicial and regulatory reform, penitentiary reform, and fundamental rights.

- **Public confidence in justice.** The Law Program continued its efforts in studying and measuring public confidence in justice in the context of new forms of criminality, particularly of cybercrime. The main research findings in selected Member States (Italy, Finland, and Bulgaria) were presented in a comprehensive comparative report on public attitudes to cybercrime and in a policy brief.
- **Judicial and regulatory reform.** Expert assistance was provided to the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council, in optimising the structure of the judiciary, including reducing the number of courts, as well as in drafting legislative amendments facilitating judicial and regulatory reform. CSD reiterated the need for an overall reform of the system of official registers in Bulgaria and in particular for streamlining the registration of non-profit legal entities and reducing the administrative burden stemming from registration procedures.
- **Penitentiary reform.** CSD assisted Bulgarian authorities by suggesting and promoting research-based solutions to the existing problems in the penitentiary system. Furthering previous efforts in the field, the Law Program published a state-of-the-art *Prison Conditions Monitoring Index* (PCMI) and a handbook on vulnerable groups of prisoners. Further opportunities for improving the situation of drug users in prison were explored. The efforts in promoting innovative penitentiary approaches were welcomed by both the European Commission and the Bulgarian authorities.
- **Fundamental rights.** As a member of the FRANET network of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, CSD collected data and information for the Agency's comparative studies. CSD also provided assistance and actively contributed to the ongoing initiatives within the FRA Platform. CSD's work included protection of fundamental rights of specific social groups through facilitating the interaction between vulnerable communities and the state, and exploring the situation of young Europeans planning to exercise their right to free movement.

I. Public confidence in justice and new forms of crime

2015 saw the closing of the three-year research of the Law Program under the

FIDUCIA initiative (www.fiduciaproject.eu). The main focus of this joint effort of lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, statisticians, criminologists, and policy analysts from thirteen European univer-

sities and research institutes was measuring public confidence in justice in light of new criminal behaviors, such as trafficking of human beings, trafficking of goods, illegal migration, and cybercrime. CSD was leading the work on **cyber-crime**, which examined the dynamics of that type of crime, studied national and international legal framework, policies, and strategies, identified best practices in self-regulations and ‘trust-based’ alternatives that might prove more effective. Recommendations were made for implementing these approaches and improving the traditional instruments.

In 2015 volume 3 of the series *FIDUCIA: New European crimes and trust-based policy* was published. The Law Program prepared the chapter *Report on self-regulation and other non-legislative practices against cybercrime*.

The first results of the national survey on trust and attitudes to justice, part of a joint effort of partners from 7 Member States, were presented by Dr. Todor Galey and Dr. Maria Yordanova and discussed at a meeting with partner organisations in Oxford in January 2015. The survey design included a separate set of questions on public attitudes towards and public awareness of cybercrime. The surveys in selected Member States (Italy, Finland, and Bulgaria) covered the attitudes of citizens towards cybercrime, public awareness of cybercrime, public tolerance of certain types of cybercrime,

and public attitudes towards policies on countering cybercrime. Among others, the survey results showed a **clear cross-national consensus about which cyber activities were perceived by the public to be immoral**.

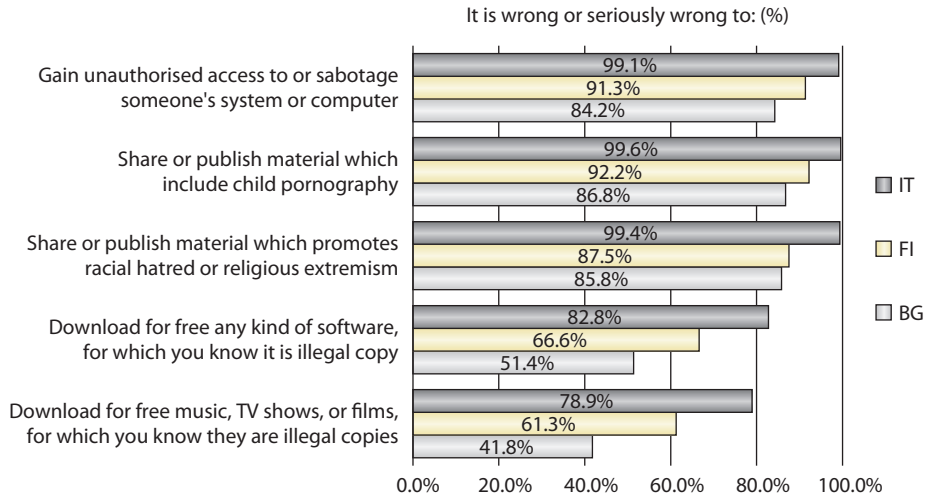
Based on survey data and its own research, as well as on contributions by partners from other EU Member States, in 2015 CSD produced its last comprehensive study under the FIDUCIA initiative – **Report on Public Attitudes to Cybercrime**. It reviews a selection of existing international and national studies and surveys on public attitudes towards cybercrime and the factors that generate different perceptions. The study examines awareness of cybercrime, tolerance of certain types of cybercrime, and attitudes of the European public towards policies for countering cybercrime, by presenting and analysing the results of the FIDUCIA survey on trust-based policies and public perceptions of cybercrime. The results of the study demonstrate that on the one hand, public confidence both in cyber-security and in the authorities’ ability to effectively control cyberspace remains low and, on the other, people express most moral condemnation of activities such as sharing child pornography; and least condemnation of illegal downloading (for instance, of music or films).

The research provided policy makers and law enforcement agencies on the national and the European level with

“The cross-border nature of cybercrime affecting both governments and private actors increasingly incentivises active-role business and non-governmental organisations to ensure a safe and secure cyber space and counter global threats through a variety of tools, rules, and innovations, as well as by developing and participating in diverse cooperation mechanisms at national and international levels including public-private partnerships.”

Source: FIDUCIA: New European crimes and trust-based policy, Volume 3, 2015, edited by Stefano Maffei & Edith Stephany Carillo Calderon, p. 80.

Public attitudes to cybercrime



Source: FIDUCIA survey, 2014 – 2015.



Seminar Cybercrime on national and international policies and private sector, Salamanca University

Recommendations

Development of **trust-based policies at the EU and Member State level in relation to emerging new criminality that provide for:**

- an appropriate balance between reasonable restrictions against abuses in cyberspace, and **overregulation** of cyber offences
- adequate legislation, non-legislative and awareness measures for prevention of and the fight against cybercrime
- increasing the awareness of internet users, including youth, regarding how to safeguard themselves and to cooperate better with the authorities in the identification of and sanctions against activities that violate shared moral and ethical values in society (in particular child pornography and the promotion of racial hatred and religious extremism)."

Source: FIDUCIA, Policy Brief: Cybercrime.

evidence and recommendations that can be used in designing and implementing better policies and awareness measures.

Upon invitation of the Salamanca University – one of the FIDUCIA partners,

on 16 May 2015 the Law Program Director Dr Maria Yordanova delivered a lecture on cybercrime before students of criminology and criminal law and discussed with them the new challenges in the area.



Justice Needs Trust: From Law & Order to Trust-Based Policies Conference, Brussels

In May 2015 a **Policy Brief on Cyber-crime**, synthesising the most important results of the research and the main conclusions and recommendations, was published and distributed among FIDUCIA partners, EU institutions, and Member States' national authorities. Prior to publication major stakeholders in Bulgaria – representatives of the judiciary, civil servants, independent experts and private companies working in the field of cyber-security in Bulgaria – provided valuable comments and remarks.

The key findings and main recommendations were presented by the Law Program Director Dr. Maria Yordanova at the **Justice Needs Trust: From Law & Order to Trust-Based Policies** conference held on 26 May 2015 in Brussels.

II. Judicial and Regulatory Reform

The reform of the judiciary continued to be a major component of CSD's activities. In 2015, the efforts were directed towards further support of the reforms of the courts' structure, based on an innovative method for using **open public data** for an analysis of the socio-economic factors affecting the **frequency and types of law suits, filed in the regional courts in Bulgaria**. The methodology was initially developed in 2014 by the CSD experts in cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The main findings of the analysis identified the combination of socio-economic factors that affect the workload of the regional courts and helped the SJC to decide on the need to reduce the number of regional courts, aiming at optimizing the courts' structure. The need for such an optimisation, including reducing the number of courts, was confirmed by the reform-minded members of the judicial community and acknowledged as

necessary in the World Bank's *Bulgaria: Judicial Performance, Caseload and Expenditure Review (2008 – 2014)*, published in November 2015 (http://www.justice.government.bg/Files/BulgariaJud_Performance_Caseload__Expend_Review_final_635828421858500895.pdf).

The Law Program team provided expert assistance to the Ministry of Justice in developing draft legislation and is taking active part in the ongoing debate on the constitutional and legislative amendments. The Law Program Director Dr. Maria Yordanova was a member of the working group of the Ministry of Justice that drafted amendments to the *Law on the Judiciary*.

CSD continued to advocate for an overall **reform of the system of official registers** in Bulgaria and in particular for **streamlining the registration of non-profit legal entities**. CSD experts participated in the working group of the Ministry of Justice, which was set up back in 2014 to draft the necessary legislative amendments for transforming the paper based registers of non-profit legal entities kept by the district courts into a central electronic register managed by the Registry Agency. The working group completed its work in May 2015 and after a series of consultations among the relevant stakeholders, the draft amendments were officially submitted to the National Assembly in October 2015. The draft aims to solve the most urgent problems in the registration of non-profit legal entities and to increase the transparency and accountability of the non-profit sector in the country. In 2015 CSD experts participated also in the working group of the Ministry of Justice, which drafted amendments to the *Law on Registered Pledges* – a law drafted in 1996 by CSD experts and adopted with its advocacy. The amendments provide for transferring the *Central Pledge Registry* at the

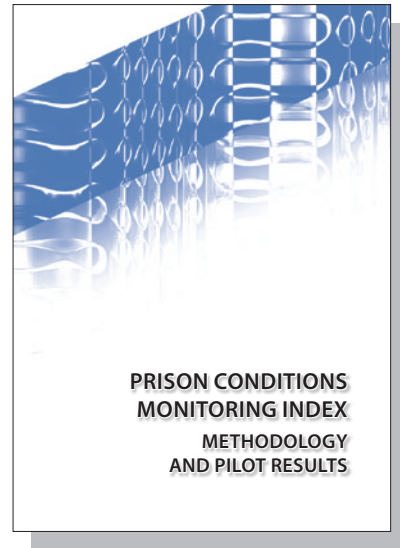
Ministry of Justice to the Registry Agency as an important step to the establishment of Electronic Registry Center.

Parallel to its involvement in the work of the Ministry of Justice, CSD started to review the other official registers, which collect information about non-profit legal entities. The objective of this initiative is to assess the overall system of official registers of non-profit legal persons and suggest reforms to make it more effective and less burdensome for the users. More than twenty different registers were identified that collect data about non-profit entities. The biggest of them are the registers of sport clubs and sport federations at the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the register of social service providers at the Social Assistance Agency, the register of community centers (the so-called 'chitalishte') at the Ministry of Culture, etc. All of the identified registers were examined in terms of their legal framework, registration procedures, fees, and access to the registered data; and the results were summarized in the report *Legal Framework of the Registration of NGOs in Bulgaria* published in November 2015. Based on the collected information CSD experts will assess the operation of these registers and develop policy recommendations for their improvement.

III. Penitentiary reform

The execution of criminal sanctions in Bulgaria reveals serious problems that have been neglected by the government for a long time. Particularly worrisome is the situation in the prisons where problems such as overcrowding, poor living conditions, and lack of adequate social and medical services often lead to violation of prisoners' rights and prevent the effective social re-integration of offenders. These observations were officially confirmed by the European Court

of Human Rights whose pilot judgment of *Neshkov and Others v. Bulgaria* recommended a combination of effective remedies in respect of poor conditions of detention that have both preventive and compensatory effects.

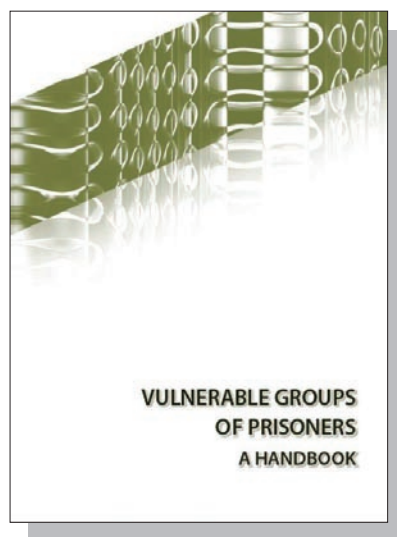


The Law Program's efforts were directed towards assisting Bulgarian authorities by suggesting and promoting research-based solutions to the existing problems. As a means for improving the situation in prisons and the re-socialization of offenders, CSD experts released two significant works within the initiative "Re-socialisation of offenders in the EU: enhancing the role of the civil society" – a handbook on the treatment of vulnerable groups of inmates and a state-of-the-art *Prison Conditions Monitoring Index* (PCMI). The two publications, together with the previously compiled *Ambulant Sanctions as an Alternative to Imprisonment in the European Union* were the focus of discussion at a high-profile event organized to promote their results and to aid relevant decision-makers in facing challenges as the ones outlined in European Court of Human Rights' pilot judgment.

The publication of **Prison Conditions Monitoring Index: Methodology and Pilot Results** can contribute to enhancing the civic monitoring of prisons by offering a set of indicators for assessing the conditions in prisons. Using a comprehensive set of indicators in line with the standards of the European Prison Rules, the *Index* translates into comparable figures the situation in different prisons. The publication elaborated on the methodology underlying the PCMI and offered a summary of the results of its pilot implementation in nine prison facilities in four Member States. The *Index* comprises of five major components: living conditions, security and safety, employment, social work and free time, and healthcare. Under each of these components, as well as under the PCMI as a whole, each prison is evaluated with a score from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest).

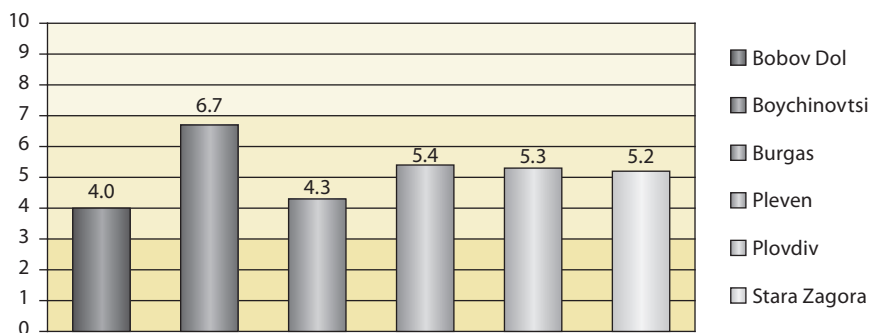
Comparable data on living conditions confirm the international organisations' observations that prison facilities in Bulgaria rank in the 'problematic' sector – due to major factors such as small living space, the unresolved problem

of overcrowding and the large number of cellmates. The two institutions that obtained a score within the 'acceptable' section of the scale enjoy low occupancy rates combined with relatively good material conditions which contribute to their positive assessment.



In prison, certain groups of inmates are subject to disadvantages due to specif-

Prison Conditions Monitoring Index



Source: CSD research.

ics of their origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, etc. These groups usually need special measures which are not always applied, leading to unequal treatment and violation of their rights. This is the focus of **Vulnerable Groups of Prisoners: A Handbook**. This book is a practical guide for those working with vulnerable inmates. It examines the situation of such groups within the prison systems of Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, and Spain. Starting from the classification of the *UN Handbook on Prisoners with special needs* and looking at the different national contexts, the authors identified twelve groups and researched measures to eliminate their vulnerability in different countries. In order to encompass as many groups as possible, some particularly marginalised groups, such as sex offenders, prisoners with disabilities, etc., were also covered. On one hand, the handbook presents the efforts for compensation of vulnerabilities in every country available in the legislation or provided by prison authorities or other actors. On the other hand, it identifies the gaps in

the measures and practices, which vary both from country to country and from group to group.

CSD research on penitentiary reform also looked at the general prison population as a vulnerable group. It outlined the procedures inmates are involved in within the framework of its initiative on NGO-institutional collaboration in the protection of vulnerable communities.

In order to popularise its efforts in promoting research-based solutions to the existing problems in the penitentiary system, on 19 January 2015 the Law Program organised an international conference on **Re-socialization of Offenders in the European Union: Enhancing the Role of Civil Society** with the participation of experts from Belgium, Germany, Spain, Lithuania, Italy, and legal professionals and representatives of state institutions and civil society in Bulgaria.

Mr. Konstantin Penchev, Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, stressed that the issue of re-socialization unavoid-



International conference on Re-socialization of Offenders in the European Union: Enhancing the Role of Civil Society, Sofia

“The output of the project appears to be of high quality. The project also covered research topics on which not yet many data are available at EU level. Interesting aspects are the research on effects of custodial versus non-custodial sentences and the way these sentences are perceived by the offender. The Prison Conditions Monitoring Tool seems to be an innovative and valuable tool for all bodies involved in prison monitoring in the Member States and may be further developed by these bodies in the future.”

Source: European Commission, Directorate General Justice and Consumers, Comments on the Implementation of the Action, Re-socialisation of offenders in the EU: enhancing the role of the civil society, 22 October 2015.

ably raises the question to what extent people are de-socialized in the places of detention. He called for urgent measures in the area of juvenile justice and social rehabilitation of children leaving places of detention. As a possible solution, Ms. Lilyana Sabeva, Secretary of the Supervisory Commission, Sofia Municipal Council, proposed for the local supervisory commissions to be used as a resource for strengthening the role of civil society in the implementation of sanctions and for NGOs to be involved in the conduct of trainings in places of detention. Experts from Italy, Germany, and the UK further elaborated on the issue of socialisation of inmates by sharing innovative practices such as video visits, which work to sustain family links when travel is not possible; and representative democracy within the prison, which benefits prison administration and inmates by constructive dialogue between them.

The Law Program explored opportunities for handling deficits in the prison system with regards to a particularly vulnerable group of offenders and inmates – the drug users. Under various estimates, people using and dependent on drugs account for some 10 – 15 % of the prison population. Placed in detention, and moreover, once released, drug users fall within a vacuum in regards to adequate treatment to prevent or reduce the chance of their return to prison.

The CSD-led initiative **Punishment vs. Treatment: The Situation of Drug Users in Prison** has the aim to present to Bulgarian authorities effective and applicable measures implemented in Norway to be possibly transferred in Bulgaria. The comprehensive research initiative has the ambition to explore and justify which practices already proved their efficiency in Norway and can add on to treatment of drug users in prison, in terms of therapy programs or specialised social orientation activities to assist reintegration in society.

CSD’s efforts to reform the prison system received recognition from the Bulgarian authorities. The *Action plan* developed by the Ministry of Justice in response to the series of judgments against Bulgaria by the European Court of Human Rights refers to the work of CSD as a good practice of cooperation between the government and the civil society in the area of prisons.

CSD consulted government and other stakeholders on issues related to imprisonment and execution of penalties. Law Program senior analyst Dimitar Markov took part in the working group of the Ministry of Justice responsible for drafting legislative amendments to implement the pilot judgment against Bulgaria of the European Court of Human Rights concerning prison conditions.

“Since the beginning of 2013 the Centre for the Study of Democracy (a Bulgarian think-tank) launched an initiative called “Re-socialisation of offenders in the EU: enhancing the role of the civil society” with the financial support of the European Commission. The initiative aims at improving the situation in prisons and the re-socialisation of offenders by promoting the broader use of alternatives to imprisonment, examining the role of communities and NGOs in their enforcement and collecting best practices. By reviewing the application of alternative penalties across the legal systems of the participating Member States, the initiative will outline, inter alia, innovative sanctioning approaches that satisfy three basic criteria: re-socialisation effect, active involvement of the society and potential to unburden the prison system. A crucial objective of the project is designing an instrument for regular prison monitoring.”

Source: Action Plan in response to Neshkov and Others v. Bulgaria (pilot judgment) and Kehayov group (20 judgments), Ministry of Justice, September 2015, p. 14.

The working group produced a set of draft amendments to the *Law on Execution of Penalties and Detention in Custody* aimed to reduce prison overcrowding and to improve the legal remedies available to prisoners suffering from the poor conditions in prison.

CSD also shared its expertise on prisons with its network of partners in other countries. Law Program experts consulted the development of a training package on alternatives to imprisonment developed in the framework of an international initiative bringing together organisations from seven EU Member States. Law Program senior analyst Dimitar Markov presented the CSD research on prisons and alternative sanctions at a number of international events including a round table on prison conditions organised by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Justice in Sofia (9-10 July 2015) and a workshop on reducing prison population in Riga, Latvia (26-27 November 2015).

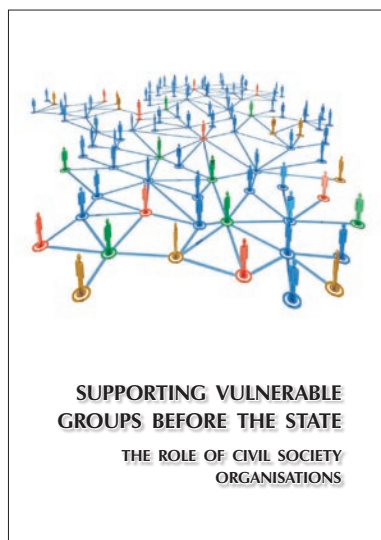
IV. Fundamental rights

In 2015, the Law Program, together with the Sociological Program, also imple-

mented an initiative on **enhancing the role of the civic sector as a guarantee for equal rights of four vulnerable groups** – asylum seekers, prisoners, victims of trafficking and domestic violence. Active online presence of the research findings and practical measures proposed was ensured by the dedicated section of the CSD website and the initiative’s Facebook group.

Following a review of foreign best practices, outlining established models and their adaptability to Bulgarian realities, the initiative produced the report *Supporting Vulnerable Groups before the State: the Role of Civil Society Organisations*. In it, a special chapter on each of the vulnerable communities described the institutions and organisations involved in their protection, the problems they face in their interaction with institutions and the mechanisms of co-operation between authorities and NGOs in their support. Conclusions and recommendations pointed towards future steps to be undertaken as regards each of the groups.

Based on the report, a draft concept for more effective participation of NGOs in the **system of support of vulner-**



able groups was produced. It deliberated on the intensity of co-operation among stakeholders, in regards to the communities under consideration, and the means to enhance co-ordination of institutions and organisations on different levels and NGO participation in law making and policy formulation. Mechanisms were recommended for collection of data under unified criteria, elaboration of co-ordination instruments and legislative steps to strengthen NGO position in legislative working groups and various consultative bodies. Concrete reform proposals were put forward for the penitentiary system, the mechanisms for protection of domestic violence and human trafficking victims

and the infrastructure dealing with foreigners in need of protection.

The draft concept was presented on 7 October 2015 at the roundtable 'Vulnerable Groups between the Civil Society and the State', in which representatives of institutions and NGOs, involved in supporting the four vulnerable groups, took part.

Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Kamelia Dimitrova, acting secretary of the National Commission for Combating Human Trafficking, who described the experience of the Commission in co-operation with NGOs. In the first panel the authors of the report *Supporting Vulnerable Groups before the State: the Role of Civil Society Organisations* presented its findings with regard to each group and heard comments from stakeholders present. In the event's second part, Ms. Miriana Ilcheva presented the draft concept on more effective participation of NGOs in the system of support of vulnerable groups. In the discussion, Ms. Radostina Pavlova from the Animus Association Foundation, specially invited as commenter, outlined the four main roles of the civic sector in regards to vulnerable communities – experts, mediators, defenders of rights and service providers – and discussed the dangers of undue influences between state and NGOs via financing and policy making. The argument that NGOs should not replace institutions in their functions es-

Regarding non-governmental organisations' involvement in legislation and policy formulation, NGO participation in legislative working groups should be better regulated in law in order to reduce the discretion of the administration. Civil society could be particularly instrumental in the harmonisation of the national legal framework with relevant international treaties and in the more adequate transposition of EU law.

Source: Supporting Vulnerable Groups before the State: the Role of Civil Society Organisations, CSD, 2015.



Roundtable Vulnerable Groups between the Civil Society and the State

tablished by law was also strongly put forward.

All research and conceptual outputs are consulted with relevant stakeholders and their active involvement in proposing concrete measures for NGO participation continues via dedicated meetings. They are to seek comments and opinions to draft a finalized concept on effective participation of civic organisations in supporting vulnerable groups, aimed for a wider audience of policy makers.

In line with its long-term fundamental rights research priority, in 2015 the Center for the Study of Democracy started exploring the **realities of free movement from the viewpoint of young Europeans** who exercise or plan to exercise this right in an initiative involving partners from 15 Member States. The research focused on the trends of young Bulgarians to move across Europe and legislative

analysis on the domestic transposition of relevant EU acts.

Law Program experts took an active part in two initiatives of the Center's Sociological Program, related to **forced return of third country nationals** and a national study on **domestic and gender based violence** and elaboration of the victim support model. Detailed overviews of relevant legal frameworks were provided, as well as support to the field work of the two expert teams. Law Program research fellow Ms. Miriana Ilcheva took part in the training of experts implementing monitoring of forced return procedures. She also presented the legal findings of the domestic violence study at an international seminar on 2-4 December 2015, where a number of Bulgarian stakeholders and Norwegian experts in the area were present.

As a member of the FRANET multidisciplinary network of the **EU Agency for**

Fundamental Rights (FRA) CSD continued to research different aspects of fundamental rights in Bulgaria. In addition to the contribution to FRA's annual report on fundamental rights in the EU, in 2015 CSD produced studies on the right to interpretation and translation and the right to information in criminal proceedings, fundamental rights, concerns related to biometric data in large EU IT-systems in the areas of borders, visa and asylum, social inclusion and migrant participation in society, return and transfer of children at risk who are EU nationals, the right to independent living for persons with disabilities, practices concerning EU law on transfer of persons sentenced or awaiting trial, and the situation of persons in need of international protection.

As a member of the FRA Platform, the CSD provided assistance and actively contributed to the FRA initiatives with input also from national context. The Law Program Director Dr. Maria Yordanova participated in a consultation meeting with civil society on FRA's project 'Severe forms of labour exploitation in the European Union' (SELEX), held in Vienna on 5-6 May 2015. The aim of the meeting was to develop a communication strategy for the report *Severe labour exploitation: workers moving within or into the European Union. States' obligations and victims' rights* (SELEX), referring to all forms of labour exploitation that are criminal under the legislation of the EU Member States where the exploitation occurs. During the meeting the key messages to the relevant target audiences, possible tools, channels and activities for disseminating the report as widely as possible, as well as specific contributions of each participating organisation were discussed.

As a follow up of the meeting the Law Program provided its media contacts with a press release and information

on the report and its official launch on 2 June 2015. All relevant information regarding the launch of the report and its key findings was disseminated also on the CSD web site and Facebook profile, among other NGOs and media. The FRA Platform team was provided with an overview of media coverage in Bulgaria around the launch of the report.

CSD took part in the work of the second and third meeting in 2015 of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights, established by the Council of Ministers and chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Apart from representing the Center at the event, Law Program research fellow Ms. Miriana Ilcheva also provided opinions on the periodic reports under international human rights treaties drafted under the co-ordination of the Foreign Ministry. She also served as Bulgarian national correspondent in the ethnic, LGBTI and religious minorities surveys under the World Bank's Equality of Opportunity in Global Prosperity Initiative.

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In 2015, the Law Program, together with the Security Program, participated in a study *Media as an instrument for state capture*. The CSD Law Program experts analysed the legal framework on the ownership and the existing forms of self-regulation and civil initiatives for transparency of media ownership. They prepared a *Policy Brief*, the main conclusions of which were presented by Law Program Director Dr. Maria Yordanova during the Conference "Media as an Instrument for State Capture", held on 11 March 2015 by the Center for the Study of Democracy, in partnership with the Media Program Southeast Europe of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Open Society Foundations. The presentation outlined the unsatisfactory procedures for identification of media own-

“The most substantial deficiencies of the Bulgarian media model are lack of transparency regarding ownership; concentration of ownership; monopoly position on the distribution market; poorly developed self-regulation mechanisms. These deficiencies impede counteracting trade in influence and other corrupt practices as well as concentration and hidden control over media. Even when established violations of statutory requirements have remained unpunished. At the same time, the Bulgarian legislation does not respond to the dynamic developments and new challenges such as online media and their potential or the risk of manipulation.”

Source: CSD Policy Brief No 49: Media Ownership in Bulgaria: state of play and challenges, 2015, <http://www.csd.bg/artShow.php?id=17518>

ership and a number of mechanisms not addressed by legislative measures, through which ownership can be obscured. Other challenges, providing a fertile soil for corrupt practices, are the lack of legal regulation on social media and the inadequate self-regulation of the sector.

The Law Program contributed also to CSD’s work in the area of anti-corruption through:

- Drafting recommendations to the updated *Anticorruption Strategy*;
- Providing legal opinion on the *Draft Law on Anticorruption Measures*;
- Assisting in the process of preparation and discussion of the *Macedonian Government Program on prevention and combating corruption and prevention and reducing conflict of interests*. Experts of the Law Program provided consultations to local institutions and delivered lectures in the joint workshops and discussions in Macedonia;
- Providing expert opinion on designing the questionnaire on judicial reforms in Macedonia;
- Working on the legal aspects of the reports and the periodic updates within the framework of the Local Research Correspondents on Corruption (LRCC) Network.

CSD actively participated in the **Informal Drug Policy Dialogue in South Eastern Europe** – an international network of experts working in the field of preventing and reducing illegal drug use. In 2015, the network held a meeting in Belgrade, Serbia (1-3 October 2015) to discuss the upcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the topic of drugs and its significance for the countries in Southeast Europe. In his presentation at the meeting, Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at the CSD Law Program, spoke about the need to improve international law enforcement cooperation against the distribution of and trafficking in drugs.

The Law program was part of the research team which prepared the *Radicalisation in Bulgaria: Threats and Trends*, a systematic overview of the main risks of violent extremism to which the Bulgarian society is exposed. Ms. Maria Doichinova and Ms. Lyubomira Derelieva, analysts at the Law program, elaborated the section on right-wing and left-wing radicalization trends with their main actors and ideas, the repertoire of actions and the groups at risk. Mr. Dimitar Markov and Ms. Miriana Ilcheva made an overview of the existing Bulgarian legislation and institutions preventing and countering radicalization.