

## Sociological program

The work of the Sociological Program in 2016 was focused on integration of migrants, social inclusion of vulnerable groups, trafficking in human beings, and prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism.

- **Integration of migrants and social inclusion of vulnerable groups.** A national study on domestic and gender-based violence and development of victim support model, with specific focus on Roma women and girls, was conducted.
- **Counter trafficking in human beings.** The use of Internet and mobile applications in the processes of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of illegal migrants and persons seeking international protection was studied. An explorative analysis of the Web was carried out to understand the role of the Internet in the recruitment and exploitation phases of the trafficking and smuggling processes.
- **Prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism.** A central research topic was the radicalisation leading to terrorism in Bulgaria, Greece and the Czech Republic. Two methodological instruments were developed, related to the identification of risks of radicalisation and to the situational analysis of extremist trends. National studies and reports were drafted to test the applicability of these instruments at national level and to serve their fine tuning.
- **Monitoring of migration.** The Sociological Program led the drafting of the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policy for the European Migration Network, providing comprehensive account of policy and legal developments in Bulgaria for 2015. An initiative aimed at the development and implementation of unified standards for forced return monitoring of migrants was launched.

### I. Integration of migrants and social inclusion of vulnerable groups

#### National Study on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (DGBV) and Elaboration of Victims Support Model (VSM)

In 2016, the Sociological Program in cooperation with the CSD Law Program, Partners Bulgaria Foundation and the Human Rights Academy, Norway, con-

ducted a National Study on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and elaborated a Victims Support Model (VSM).

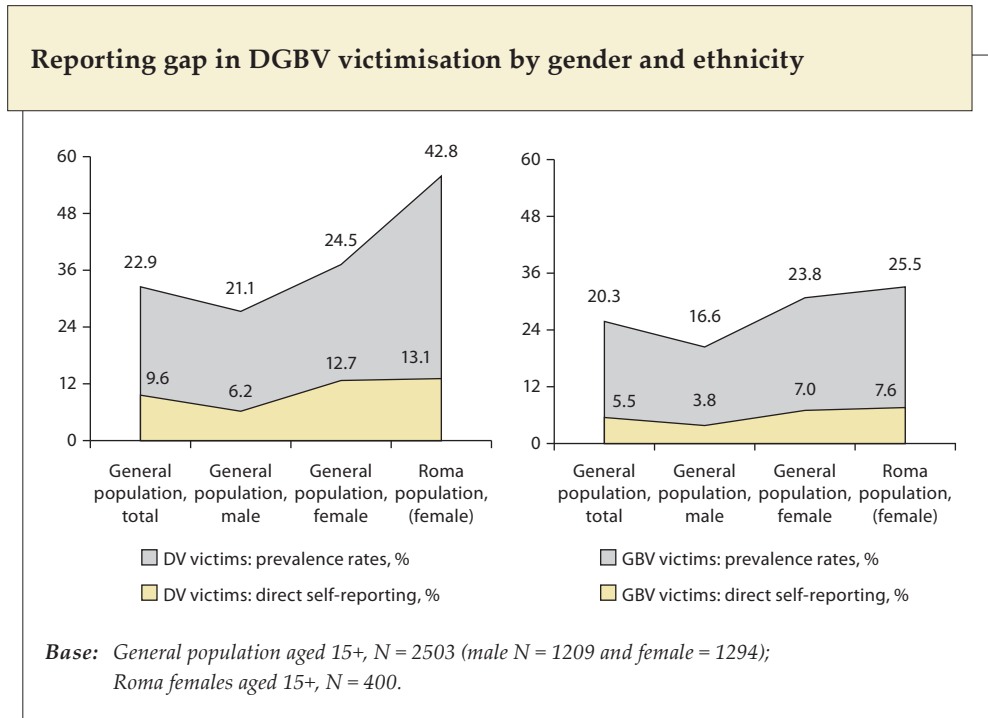
Bulgaria is among those half of the EU-member states where statistical information about victim-offender relationship is not gathered, hereby making impossible the assessment of the share of domestic violence among the crimes against the person. Domestic violence (DV) is not qualified as a criminal of-

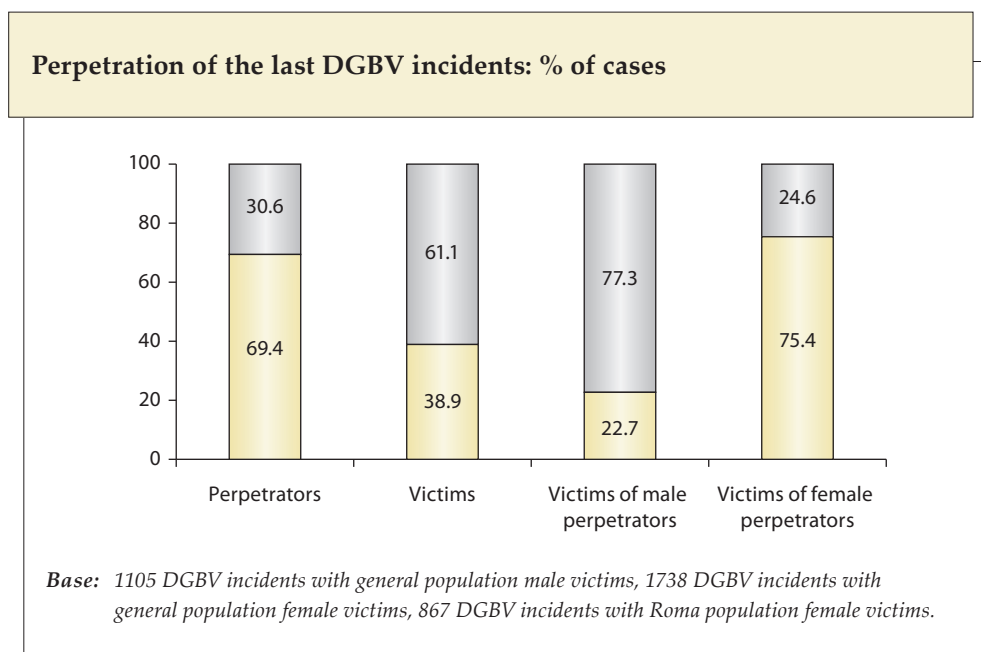
fence and is still not included in the *Criminal Code*, and, respectively, in the statistical data provided by the Police and by the National Statistical Institute. Information about the number of complaints for domestic violence registered at the Police and the number of domestic violence cases submitted to court is not present in the publicly available statistics, either.

Based on several nation and EU-wide surveys conducted since 2000, the share of women victims of domestic and gender-based violence is estimated at a quarter of the female adult population. *National Study on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence in Bulgaria* has been prepared outlining the methodological approach and the findings of the work that has been done in terms of the four problematic areas: factors and causes, scales and prevalence, consequences and public response.

The study defines two main groups of factors and causes for DGBV that may partially overlap, but still differ significantly: factors and causes for victimisation, connected predominantly with the environment, characteristics and behaviour of the perpetrators; and factors and causes for re-victimisation, connected predominantly with the environment, characteristics and behaviour of the victims.

The national study confirms the hypothesis that DV and GBV are phenomena with higher levels of concealing and unawareness, not only on the part of perpetrators, but also on the part of victims. For this reason, the figures do not represent the share of those really affected by different forms of DGBV and this is valid for all surveys held in this context. Three main factors influence reporting: real occurrence, awareness of the occurrence as violence, and



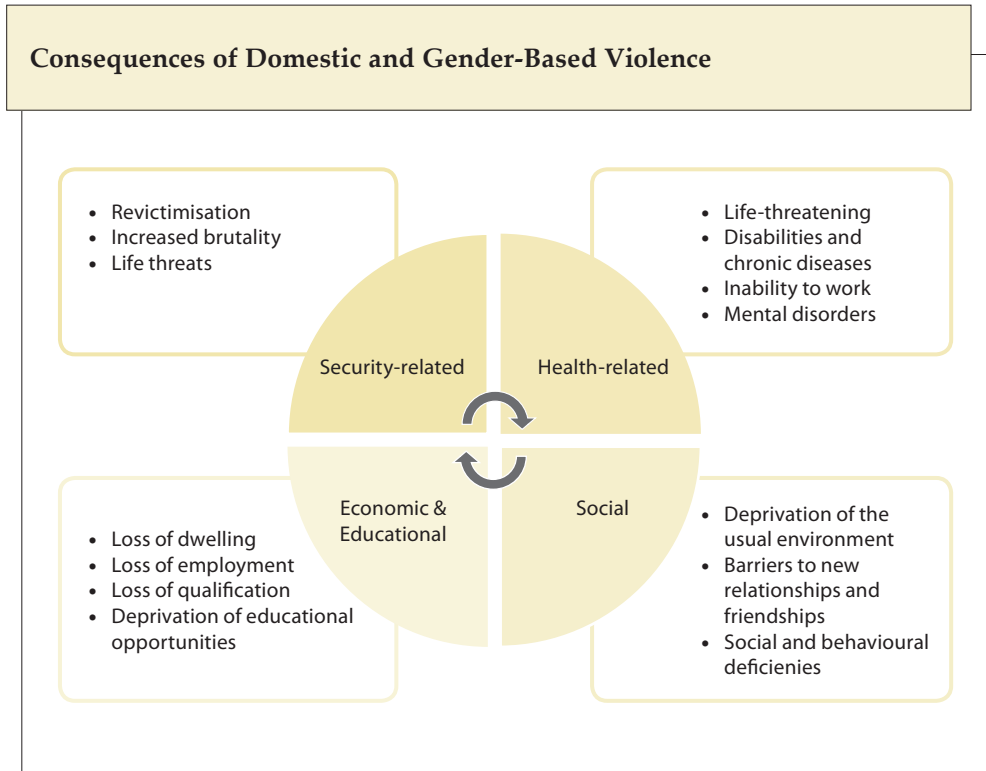


willingness to share it. Although a quarter of men and a third of women among the general population, as well as nearly half of Roma women and girls shared that they have experienced some type of DGBV in their lifetimes, the share of those who aware that have become DGBV victims is several times as low.

Although the share of men victims of different DGBV forms seem significant and higher than expected, women are still more vulnerable, as they suffer from multiple, repeated and systematic violence more frequently. Also, Roma women and girls are more vulnerable than those among the general population. The gender analysis of the most recent cases of DGBV that the respondents reported shows that nearly two thirds of the perpetrators are men and that women clearly predominate among the victims. Still, four out of ten victims of DGBV are men.

The consequences of DGBV for victims could be summarised in four main groups:

- **safety-related**, such as: fear of re-victimisation, real occurrence of re-victimisation in a substantial share of cases, increased brutality of the violence and life threats;
- **health** consequences, such as: provoked auto-immune disease or life-threatening physical trauma, short-term or long-term disability, life-long chronic conditions, triggered or deteriorated heavy mental disorders, depressive, panic and sleep disorders;
- **economic or educational**, such as: loss of dwelling (usually the only one), long- or short-term inability to work, loss of employment, loss of qualification/educational opportunities, all of them connected with deteriorated current and future labour market opportunities;
- **social**, such as: deprivation of the usual environment, inability or re-



luctance for new relationships and friendships, and, in the case of children, a risk of interiorisation of wrong behavioural, family and gender models, as well as a number of social deficiencies: communicational, behavioural, verbal, etc.

Although the assessments of the effectiveness provided by the representatives of law-enforcement bodies and helping organisations are high, they list a significant number of unmet needs of DGBV victims and, respectively, deficiencies in their protection and recommendations for improvement. These could be grouped in several main types:

- **direct needs** of overcoming the trauma and the economic and psychological dependence, such as crisis and subsequent accommodation, extended psychological treatment and consultation, and financial support;
- **protection-related needs** of overcoming the re-victimisation and the feeling of impunity of the perpetrators, including claims for criminalisation of all forms of DGBV, wider powers for law enforcement bodies to intervene when the victims are unable or unwilling to accuse the perpetrators, and stricter sanctions;
- **perpetration-oriented needs/recommendations** for a greater number of more effective prevention activities, monitoring and analysis of the causes, measures against the perpetrators, as well as measures to help the perpetrators overcome the causes driving them to violence;
- **needs of the professionals** servicing the victims, such as: more and better trained human resources; regular

supervision and professional support; greater material resources for implementation of the tasks, as well as better cooperation with and more active involvement of other state and municipal institutions.

The *Victims' Support Model* is based on the approach addressing domestic and gender-based violence as a problem of public health. It consists of practically-oriented advice to potential victims and supporting specialists about feasible actions in the areas of law enforcement, healthcare, and support services, and the respective functions of the institutions and organisations involved in each separate aspect of support and protection.

The major recommendations and policies drawn on the basis of the national study have been drafted in a policy brief. Recommendations are grouped in seven main areas: monitoring and evaluation, prevention, crisis measures, focus on

perpetrators, after-crisis support, improved cooperation and resources. The key points are listed below:

- The public actors engaged in counteraction of DGBV, as well as the general public do not possess common systematic statistical data and expert evaluations needed for regular monitoring.
- Prevention activities in the country are still occasional and dependent on the good will and resources available to specific actors.
- The system for crisis intervention, protection and support of victims has proved its adequacy and usefulness; however, it still remains inaccessible to victims in the greater part of the country.
- Protection of victims in situation of crisis is of vital importance, but is not sufficient. A system of after-crisis measures should be developed and implemented tailored to the specific needs of each victim.



*Participants at the workshop in Kavarna, 18-19 May 2016*





*Field visit to the Hadji Dimitar quarter in the town of Kavarna, 18-19 May 2016*

- Measures should not be victim-focused only. Multi-aspect and systematic measures targeting the perpetrators should be developed and enforced. This should include educational programs on violence prevention among boys and young men.
- Inter-institutional cooperation should be further developed and regulated in the law.

The results of the study are presented to a range of stakeholders. Dissemination events include a seminar for exchange of best practices from Norway in the work with victims of domestic and gender-based violence, a press conference and a [closing seminar](#) with relevant national authorities and representatives from the civil sector.

### **Roma Integration across the Danube: Best Practices and Social Entrepreneurship Models Exchange between Romania and Bulgaria**

In 2016, the Sociological Program extended its work on informing the policy debates on social inclusion and challenging negative attitudes and “othering” of Roma.

With the vast majority of Roma population in Europe (80 %) living in the Danube region, a framework for cooperation and sharing of best practices and knowledge is fundamental in promoting efficient Roma integration policies in the region. While Roma inclusion actions have been supported in the last years through some European funds, the effects remain limited, at least in the south of Romania. While Romanian civil society have successfully implemented social economy initiatives (ex. Romano Butiq’s small Roma crafts

co-operatives), municipalities are lagging behind in providing improved living standards to the Roma. In Bulgaria, on the other hand, Kavarna has become in recent years a model for its comprehensive approach to Roma integration. Nevertheless, social economy initiatives dedicated to Roma are yet to be developed to the South of the Danube.

The initiative facilitated useful exchange of experience between municipalities, civil society and Roma entrepreneurs from the two countries on the topic of Roma administrative integration (as experienced in Kavarna) and social entrepreneurship (as experienced in Romania). It also encouraged potential common projects and highlighted financing opportunities.

On 18-19 May 2016, in the city of Kavarna, CSD hosted a [workshop](#) focusing on the exchange of experience and best practices between different stakeholders from six Danube municipalities. The event was attended by representatives from municipalities Ramnicu Sarat (Buzau County), Ludesti (Dambovita County) and Craiova (Dolj County) from the Romanian side

and Kavarna, Lom and Razgrad from the Bulgarian side.

The meeting was devoted to sharing the unique experience of Kavarna in the integration of Roma communities. A particular focus was put on the general philosophy of ongoing policies based on the principle of equality between ethnic groups; the approach relying primarily on the active involvement of the community in solving issues that affect them; and the main achievements in terms of political representation, infrastructure, housing, education and employment. The study *Socio-Economic Effects of Public Investments for Roma Inclusion in Kavarna* was conducted by a CSD team in 2015. A field visit to the Hadji Dimitar quarter in Kavarna was organized to present the practical impact of Roma integration policy.

## II. Trafficking in human beings

In 2016, in cooperation with the University of Trento (IT) and Teesside University (UK), the Center for the Study of Democracy continued its work on improving and sharing knowledge on the



*Information on the number of people affected by trafficking in human beings and smuggling in the EU posted on the webpage of the initiative, [www.surfandsound.eu](http://www.surfandsound.eu)*

Internet role in the human trafficking process.

An explorative analysis of the Web was conducted in order to understand the role played by the Internet in the recruitment and exploitation phases of the trafficking and smuggling processes. Research protocol was used for the administration of in-depth interviews of key actors in human trafficking and smuggling processes. The results from the studies conducted were summarised in two separate reports.

The report providing an overview of a web-based research on the use of Internet in the course of trafficking of human beings in Bulgaria was based mainly on a comprehensive sample of offers for women and girls to become sex workers for escort agencies abroad. In addition, the research has also focused on instances of recruitment offers for cheap labour in other EU member states. Most of the job advertisements – both for sexual services and cheap labour – are dubious and unclear in content and are thus considered as risk web links. While direct evidence for trafficking could not be obtained from this research process alone, it contributes to the enhanced identification of online sites which potentially facilitate the recruitment and transportation of victims of THB, and serve as effective communication channels between traffickers.

The exploration of the web has focused predominantly on job offering websites, social networks, marriage agencies websites and escorts' websites. In the course of the research process more than 190 cases have been identified as a potential risk for trafficking of human beings. The majority of the samples are related to recruitment for sex services abroad, but there is also a brief focus on recruitment and transport for cheap labour. With the wide entry of infor-

mation technology in Bulgaria and the country's membership in the European Union, more and more Bulgarians are looking for decent and well-paid employment opportunities abroad and the virtual world serves as one the quickest and easiest means to that end.

The second report presented the main results of the in-depth interviews conducted in Bulgaria within 10 months, between June 2015 and March 2016. The interviews aimed at preliminary exploration of the use of Internet in two processes: trafficking in human beings, and smuggling of refugees and illegal migrants. They include four groups of respondents: traffickers/smugglers, victims of trafficking/illegal migrants/asylum seekers, representatives of law enforcement agencies, and representatives of NGOs working in the field of THB.

According to the interviewed persons, the Internet is largely used both in trafficking and smuggling, at recruitment and exploitation phases. In the case of trafficking, the Internet seems to play bigger role than in case of smuggling, and Facebook is rather an additional than a main instrument for recruitment. Most used for this purpose are the dating sites and the job sites, in trafficking for sexual and for labour exploitation, respectively. Although Facebook is largely used, it is perceived as a harder way for recruitment in comparison with the dating sites. However, regardless whether Facebook or dating sites have been used, in all cases the communication is made through private chats.

The mobile applications, as WhatsApp and Viber, along with more traditional means like Skype, phone calls and emails, are used for several different purposes:

- communication with partners within the country and abroad, during all



phases of sex trafficking, labour trafficking and smuggling;

- communication with clients abroad, during the recruitment phase of smuggling, recruitment and transportation phase of labour trafficking, and the exploitation phase of sex trafficking;
- communication with potential victims during the recruitment phase and with actual victims during the exploitation phase of sex trafficking.

For both types of trafficking, the Internet is hardly related to the transportation phase. Mobile apps are used only to arrange the time and place of arrival of the new victims. In the case of smuggling, they might be used by migrants to arrange the details with the smuggler; but having in mind the illegal crossing of the border, traditional phone calls are more feasible.

The recruitment process in the cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation is estimated as Internet assisted to an increasingly great extent. Some of the respondents among traffickers, victims and NGO representatives are inclined to say that the majority of cases are not Internet-assisted yet, while other victims and NGO representatives, as well as the LEAs representatives, tend to estimate the share of Internet recruitments up to half of the cases.

### III. Radicalisation leading to terrorism

#### Countering Radicalisation in Southeast and Central Europe through Development of Monitoring Tools

Together with the Security Program, the Sociological Program continued its work on understanding radicalisation in Southeast and Central Europe. This ini-

tiative addresses key needs in the area of counter-radicalisation and achieved several important results:

- assessment and transfer of de-radicalisation experience from the EU MS with more advanced experience in monitoring, countering and preventing radicalisation.
- design and promotion of radicalisation monitoring tools tuned to the national contexts in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Greece.
- initiation of informed monitoring of radicalisation and recruitment that might potentially lead to acts of extremism and terrorism.
- enhanced capacity of law enforcement, policy makers and civil society to understand processes of radicalisation and vulnerability risks.

A Tool on Monitoring Radicalisation was drafted to aid intelligence and law enforcement institutions in conducting risk assessments with regard to radicalisation and extremism. The Tool is constructed based on the provision of critical review of radicalisation diagnostic tools and approaches in the EU, as well as on national background studies and methodology testing studies in Bulgaria, Greece and the Czech Republic.

A [workshop](#) on the topic took place in June 2016. Participants discussed results from pilot country studies for testing of the proposed tools and their possible fine tuning.

Two national publications are prepared: a Tool for Understanding, Assessing and Monitoring Radicalisation Risks and a national report on the risks of radicalisation in the Iztok quarter of the town of Pazardjik, and a Guide on Compiling Situational Analysis of Extremist Trends combined with a national report assessing the applicability of the methodology in the Bulgarian context. The



*The participants in the expert workshop, 28 June 2016, Sofia*

two publications are groundbreaking work that sets the framework of understanding processes of radicalisation and the manifestations of radicalisation and vulnerability risks in Bulgaria. They are to serve as standard reading for law enforcement officers, civil society as well as academics who have to deal with issues of monitoring or preventing radicalisation and extremism. The Guide on Compiling Situational Analysis of Extremist Trends will serve for lobbying purposes and development of the system of data collection and analysis in Bulgaria. The Tool for Understanding, Assessing and Monitoring radicalisation Risks will serve as a basis for inter-institutional discussions for the development of radicalisation and risk monitoring indicators in Bulgaria.

#### **IV. Expert advice to key governmental stakeholders**

##### **Supporting the development of the Annual Report for the EMN**

In 2016, for a fourth year the Sociological program, in cooperation with the Security and the Law Programs, lead the drafting of the *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policy in Bulgaria* for the European Migration Network. The report provides comprehensive account of annual policy and legal developments in the fields of legal migration and mobility, citizenship and naturalisation, visa policy and Schengen governance, border monitoring, asylum, trafficking in human beings, migration and development, integration, irregular migration and return.

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**Development and implementation of unified standards for forced return monitoring**

Building on the experience in elaborating pilot mechanism for monitoring of forced return operations in Bulgaria, in 2016 the Sociological Program, in partnership with CVS – Bulgaria, launched an initiative to develop and test unified standards for forced return monitoring.

The initiative aims to contribute to the development of a common EU policy on asylum and migration, as well as contribute to strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice in the application of the principles of solidarity

and sharing of responsibilities between Member States and cooperation with third countries under *Regulation (EC) № 516/2014* of the European Parliament and the Council.

The initiative will enhance the regulatory framework at national level in the field of forced return by developing unified standards for monitoring. It will develop and improve concrete mechanisms for monitoring and ensuring respect for fundamental rights and freedoms of third country nationals who are undergoing a procedure of forced return, and will help build and strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders involved.