

Sociological program

The work of the Sociological Program in 2017 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.** The Sociological Program continued its work on evaluating and identifying effective policy solutions to facilitate the inclusion of vulnerable groups in Bulgarian society and at EU level. The Program conducted evaluations to assess needs and identify workable solutions in the sphere of orientation and integration trainings for beneficiaries of international protection with a particular focus on the needs of women as well as to identify gaps in the access to and take up of Youth Guarantee measures by Roma youth in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. In 2017, CSD became member of EASO's Consultative Forum.
- **Counter trafficking in human beings.** CSD studied the role of the Internet in the processes of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of illegal migrants. The analysis explored the use of the Internet and mobile applications in the recruitment, transportation and exploitation phases of the trafficking and smuggling processes.
- **Prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism.** Based on methodological instruments for the identification of risks of radicalisation CSD conducted a review and provided consultation of the final analysis of a national representative survey on radicalisation in Jordan.
- **Monitoring of migration.** The Sociological Program led the development and pilot testing of unified standards for independent monitoring of forced return in Bulgaria.

I. Integration of migrants and social inclusion of vulnerable groups

In the context of increasing refugee inflows in Europe it becomes highly relevant to propose and implement practical actions responding to existing gaps in migrant/refugee integration across the EU. In response to this challenge, CSD conducted a cross national study *Mapping the Training Needs of Beneficiaries of International Protection and the Mechanisms for Training Provi-*

sion in Five EU Member States. The study identified information and training needs of beneficiaries of international protection and provided gaps analysis as per their provision at the levels of reception and integration in five EU Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain). The cross-national comparison served as a basis for the identification of workable solutions in Italy and Spain that can be transferred in Bulgaria, Greece and Malta where customised orientation and integration



Discussing gaps in information and raising provision to beneficiaries of international protection at an expert seminar in Sofia, 30 March 2017

training modules are in the process of development.

The initiative is a joint effort of seven research and service providing institutions from Bulgaria, Greece, Malta, Italy and Spain. It has involved cross-national exchange of knowledge and experience in the sphere of integration training in the course of two study visits to refugee servicing institutions in Italy and Spain.

Between 2013 and 2016, the EU Member States started the implementation of the *Youth Guarantee Programme* aimed at NEET youth (youth not in employment, education or training). In Bulgaria, as well as in Hungary and Romania, substantial part of the youth in this situation come from Roma communities. To influence the impact of EU-funded Youth Guarantee programmes at re-

gional, national and local levels and to promote the provision of inclusive services by national governments and the implementation of long-term reforms that improve the lives of Roma youth, the Sociological Program discussed with its partners from the Budapest Institute and the Romanian Centre for European Policies the methodology for the study *Mind the Gap! – Facilitating access to and take up of Youth Guarantee measures by Roma youth in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania*, and the strategy for dissemination of its results.

Homophobia and unequal treatment for LGBTI people remain widespread across the EU. While indicators vary in the different Member States and the situation seems more favorable in some compared to others, data shows that no country has achieved full LGBTI equality. Bulgaria is among the countries



Expert visit to the Staderini Transit Centre for Refugees in Rome, 17 May 2017

where the situation remains quite unfavourable. According to the ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map (2016), which shows the human rights situation of LGBTI people across the EU, Bulgaria scores 24 % (with 100 % denoting “rights fully respected” and 0 % denoting “violations, discrimination”). To address this reality and trigger improvements in the treat-

ment of the LGBT community CSD developed a methodology for conducting a national study on the situation of same-sex couples with recognition in another EU Member State who travel and reside in Bulgaria. Following the results of the study an awareness rising strategy will be developed targeting the relevant authorities and the general public.



Discussion of methodology of Mind the Gap! cross-national study in Sofia, 27 September 2017

II. Trafficking in human beings

In 2017, the Center for the Study of Democracy continued the cooperation with the University of Trento (Italy) and Teesside University (UK) on the study of **the role of Internet in the human trafficking and human smuggling process**. The methods of in-depth interviews with key informants, explorative analysis of the Web and online survey among users of job sites and dating sites were used to analyze the role played by the Internet in the recruitment and exploitation phases of the trafficking and smuggling processes. The study results were summarised in a [national report](#) and presented at a [national report](#).

The event held on 22 March 2017 informed the key stakeholders: representatives of law-enforcement agencies and non-government organisations about the findings of the study, and gathered

their opinions and recommendations for counteracting Internet-facilitated human trafficking and smuggling. The participants also discussed strategies for development of Internet and new technology-based solutions and prevention-oriented activities.

III. Radicalisation leading to terrorism

The Sociological Program, jointly with the Security Program, continued its work on **understanding radicalisation and developing monitoring instruments in Southeast and Central Europe**. CSD, together with ELIAMEP and the Center for Security Policy at Charles University, addressed key needs in the area of counter-radicalisation that resulted in the drafting of two methodological tools for monitoring radicalisation risks: *Monitoring Radicalisation: A Framework*



Human Trafficking and Smuggling – the New Challenges Workshop, Sofia, 22 March 2017



Radicalisation and Extremism in Bulgaria: Monitoring Trends and Risks Seminar, Sofia, 28 February 2017

for *Risk Indicators* and *Situational Assessment of Extremist Trends*. The tools were drafted to aid intelligence and law enforcement institutions in conducting risk assessments with regard to radicalisation and extremism. The two publications are groundbreaking work that sets the framework of understanding the processes of radicalisation, its manifestations and vulnerability risks in Bulgaria. The reports will serve as standard reading for law enforcement officers, civil society and academia dealing with monitoring or preventing radicalisation and extremism. The *Guide on Compiling Situational Analysis of Extremist Trends* will serve to advocate for the development of the system of data collection and analysis in Bulgaria. The *Tool for Understanding, Assessing and Monitoring Radicalisation Risks* will serve as grounds for an inter-institutional debate on the development of radicalisation and risk monitoring indicators in Bulgaria.

At the national level, the diagnostic tools were presented for discussion at a round table held at the Bulgarian Police Academy in February 2017, gathering experts from the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police, the State Agency for National Security, the Combatting Organised Crime General Directorate, the MoI Institute for Psychology, etc.

At the EU level, a round table took place in Brussels in February 2017, gathering key EU level stakeholders and experts. The event was co-organised with the European Policy Center and served to present and put under discussion key recommendations for monitoring interventions in Southeast Europe. The main diagnostic tools developed by CSD and the Policy Brief *Monitoring Radicalisation and Extremism* were presented.

CSD has become a recognisable analytical institute in the field of radicalisation



Monitoring Radicalisation Risks in Central and Southeast Europe: Shaping Diagnostic Tools for EU Policy Makers Round Table, Brussels, 23 February 2017

research at the EU level and has been approached in 2017 to provide advice and consultation on radicalisation research beyond the European continent.

IV. Monitoring of migration

In 2017, the Sociological Program, in partnership with CVS – Bulgaria, continued its pilot work on developing and testing unified standards for monitoring of forced return, seeking to assist the Bulgarian government in applying common standards and procedures for returning illegally staying third-country nationals in compliance with the fundamental rights of the returnees and in line with *Directive 2008/115/EC*.

The initiative resulted in the development of unified standards for monitor-

ing and ensuring respect for fundamental rights and freedoms of third-country nationals who are in a procedure of forced return. In the course of implementation of monitoring missions, CSD is working on the development and enhancement of mechanisms for cooperation between the government and the civil sector in the sphere of independent monitoring of forced return.

Based on review of forced return monitoring practices across the EU CSD developed *Draft Standards for Forced Return Monitoring* which were consulted with relevant national stakeholders and based on prior training of future monitors. *Independent Monitoring of Forced Return: Standards for Monitoring in Bulgaria* are presently tested through the conduct of monitoring missions of forced return operations.



A meeting with the Austrian Ombudsman Board, Vienna, 8 March 2017