

# Security program

**In 2012 the European Program was renamed to Security Program.** The new name reflects more accurately the long-term focus of the program on national and international security topics.

## 2012 Highlights:

- The Security Program concentrated its efforts in three main areas: 1) developing a serious and organised crime threat analysis in Bulgaria; 2) research on policies related to forfeited criminal assets; and 3) study of corruption in law-enforcement agencies, with specific emphasis on border police and criminal police.
- **Assessing the threats of serious and organised crime in Bulgaria.** An analysis of the criminal markets and of good practices in countering organised crime was developed and its results were published in the report *Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2010 – 2011*. In addition, a methodology for assessing those threats was developed addressing the needs of specialized agencies, and an education module based on it was designed to be utilized by professors and students at the Ministry of Interior Academy.
- **Forfeited criminal assets.** Another important focus of the Security Program was the study of good European practices in countering organised crime through uncovering money laundering operations, confiscating the proceeds from illegal activities, and their further use for social purposes.
- **Anti-corruption measures and policies at law-enforcement agencies.** A comprehensive review of good practices in cooperation between border police and customs administrations in applying **anti-corruption measures at the EU external borders** was completed as a follow-up to last year's CSD research on the link between corruption and organised crime in the 27 EU Member States. This was the third EU-wide report commissioned by the EC in the area of Justice and Home Affairs successfully implemented by CSD.
- A start was given to an initiative of CSD to facilitate the exchange of best practices in countering police corruption among several EU Member States.

## I. Assessing the threats of serious and organised crime in Bulgaria

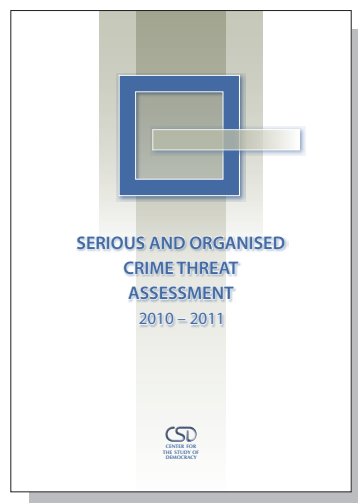
The year saw the completion of the *Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2010 – 2011*. It represents a first step in introducing this European instrument as part of the EU-wide efforts to assess

the levels and scope of criminal threats to the Member States and to formulate the political and operational priorities in countering organised crime.

CSD's report follows a different methodological approach compared to previous assessments (for example, the Ministry

of Interior's national reports submitted to Europol in the framework of the collection of data for Europol's Organised Crime Threat Assessment). Building on the best European practices, the current report was made possible through **cooperation with key law-enforcement agencies**. In developing the report CSD experts benefited from the support of General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime (DGCOC), General Directorate Criminal Police (GDPC), the Customs Agency, the National Revenues Agency (NRA), and the State Agency for National Security (SANS). Furthermore, a number of meetings and discussions were held with investigators from DGCOC and GDPC at regional offices, prosecutors, representatives of NRA and the Customs Agency, as well as with experts from the private sector. The background work included interviews with offenders directly involved in the criminal markets covered by the report. The assessment used a wide range of public record sources, statistical data, as well as the results from the annual National Crime Surveys (NCS), trending the

opinion of both the general population and the business community.



Working on the *Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2010 – 2011*, CSD experts received methodological advice from a number of EU and international law enforcement institutions: The UK Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), the National Police Services



*Opening of the discussion of the Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment*



*Presentation of the first Bulgarian Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment, from left to right: Mr. Anastas Anastasov, Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly and Chairman of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee, Dr. Ognian Shentov, CSD Chairman and Mr. Tsvetan Tsvetanov, Minister of Interior*

Agency of the Netherlands, the Federal Judicial Police of Belgium, the Criminal Police of North-Rhine Westphalia, the Swedish Customs, Europol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The report analyses the current state and trends in serious and organised crime in the country, and gives a forecast about future threats. These threats are ranked according to **the harm they cause to Bulgarian society**. The analysis is intended to support a better informed, evidence-based approach to anti-crime policies.

On 3 April 2012, the Internal Security and Public Order Committee hosted a public presentation of the main conclusions of the *Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA)*. The discussion, attended also by representatives of Europol and the UK Serious and

Organised Crime Agency, emphasized the importance of the report for the development of European and US anti-crime policies.

In his opening address Dr. Shentov, Chairman of CSD, stressed out that most countries of the European Union and Europol now produce a national threat assessment of organised crime, and that this evaluation is a standard tool for managing the security sector. He explained that the Bulgarian *SOCTA* discusses and analyzes eight criminal activities that represent the highest risk and cause the greatest harm to society.

The Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly and Chairman of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee Mr. Anastas Anastasov noted that the Bulgarian *SOCTA*, although the first of its kind, is a significant contribution in combating crime. He ar-

gued that the analysis of the nature of organised crime shows that it is not enough to express readiness to oppose it and to take certain actions with short-term effect. The experience of leading EU partners and the analysis of our own experience prove that the strategy for combating crime should be based on thorough knowledge of the targets, their strengths and weaknesses. “Even more important during the current economic crisis”, he noted, “is to focus resources on countering those sectors of organised crime that cause the greatest harm to the state budget and society”. No less important is to establish the conditions that would help Bulgaria fulfil its partner responsibilities in contributing to the implementation of the EU model of proactive crime prevention.

Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at CSD, presented the main findings of the SOCTA in Bulgaria. The study aims to show the status of major illicit markets and activities without evaluating the counteraction taken by the law-enforcement authorities. The report is drawn on diverse sources of information: law-enforcement institutions analyses based on intelligence information, statistics and marketing data from surveys, interviews with offenders and police officers, in addition to data from CSD’s annual *National Crime Surveys*. A map of the estimated size of markets and criminal activities was presented. Mr. Bezlov also illustrated the relationship between legal, informal and criminal economies. **He stated that the revenues of organised crime in Bulgaria amount to about EUR 1.7 billion, which represents 4.7 % of GDP.** These figures show that the organised crime activities pose a serious threat. The most significant threats outlined in the report were prostitution and trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation, followed by VAT fraud, smuggling of excisable goods (fuel and cigarettes), and narcotics. Two

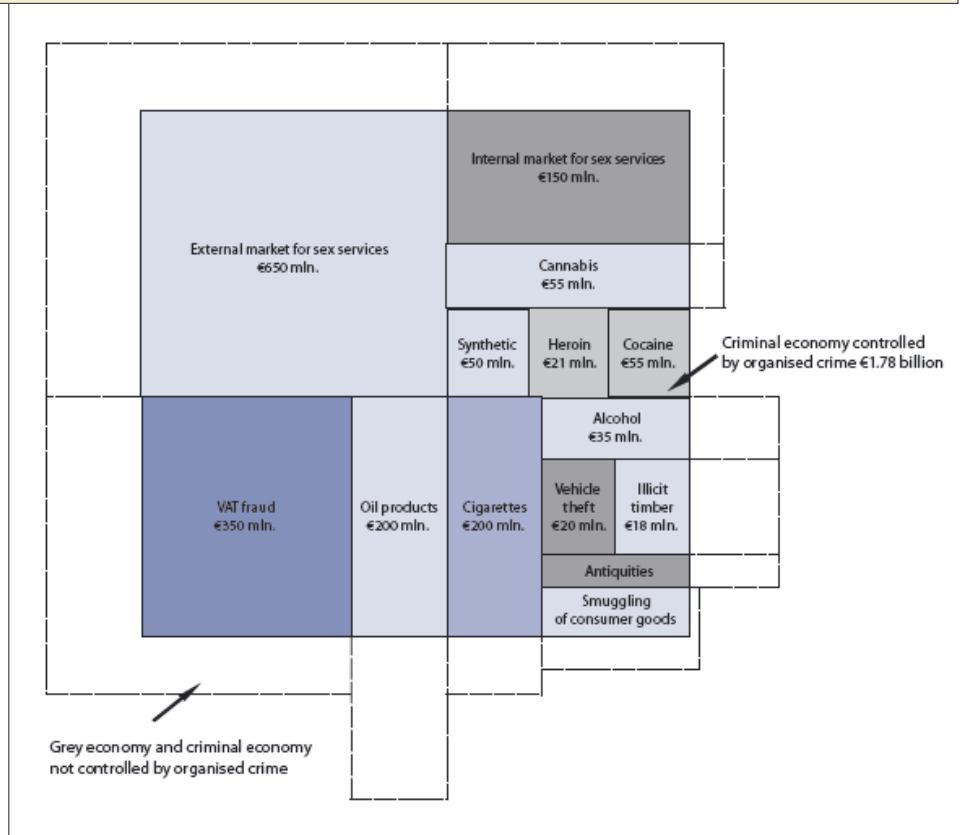
major trends were outlined – **the fragmentation of big criminal structures and hierarchies** that were the defining features of the heroin market, and the **reduction in OC related violence**. He also emphasized that corruption related to the illegal distribution of drugs has decreased.

Finally, Mr. Bezlov pointed out that the link **between “white collar” and organised crime is the major threat for Bulgaria**. Particularly, he highlighted the risks from the corruptive influence of the so called “oligarchs”.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior Mr. Kalin Georgiev focused his presentation on the institutional mechanism for the evaluation of threats, as well as actions taken to tackle organised crime in Bulgaria. He presented in detail the measures taken to counter the main threats identified in the SOCTA report. Mr. Georgiev argued that the security environment today is mainly determined by the inherently asymmetric risks and threats such as terrorism, transnational organised crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber crime and illegal migration. He noted that since 2009 the Ministry has adopted a new, proactive approach to combating organised crime. He stated that a tipping point in countering organised crime in Bulgaria has been passed. He noted that the large structures in the market for illicit sex services that have exercised political influence before have now disappeared, while organised criminal structures are fragmented. In terms of future threats, Mr. Georgiev noted that the MoI is taking measures to increase border security. He quoted the updated strategy of the border police and the new operational plan to counter migration related crisis situations.

Mr. Alastair Woolley, Regional Manager, Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Figure 7. Structure of revenues of organised crime in Bulgaria



(SOCA), talked about UK's 10-year experience in applying the threat assessment tool in combating serious and organised crime. He emphasised that the assessment is always the end result of information gathering by national law enforcement bodies, European partners and other sources, and its purpose is to identify the areas that require action, as well as the 'grey areas' in the information on organised crime. This enables both SOCA and Home Office to define their priorities. The methodology serves as the basis for more efficient distribution of resources in times of economic crisis, and outlines the trend of threats.

Using the threat assessment, law enforcement bodies can react in a timely manner to newly emerging threats.

**Mr. Michel Quillé**, Deputy Director, Europol, expressed *Europol's* support for countering organised crime in Bulgaria. He presented the eight priority areas of the European policy for combating organised crime in the period 2011 – 2013, based on the *European Organised Threat Assessment (OCTA)* of 2011. In 2013, the first *EU Serious and Organised Threat Assessment (SOCTA)* will be produced, along with a series of specific operational plans. These steps will mark the be-



*Mr. Michel Quillé,  
Deputy Director, Europol,  
at the presentation  
of the Bulgarian SOCTA*



*Mr. Alastair Woolley, Regional Manager,  
Serious and Organised Crime Agency  
(SOCA), at the presentation of the  
Bulgarian SOCTA*

gining of the next period, 2013 – 2017 in the fight against international serious and organised crime. Mr. Quillé underscored that the only way to tackle this problem is through identification of the threat, and that the contribution of analysts working outside professional organisations is particularly important.

Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov thanked CSD for the preparation of the threat assessment, and noted that this is the first document aiming at the development of a strategy to combat organised crime based on analysis and partnership. As these threats are common for the whole EU, joined efforts are required within the Euro-Atlantic partnership. The minister discussed further the efforts of the government to create an adequate legal framework that would allow the setting of specialised courts, prosecutors and investigation units in the General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime, and the reform in the MoI designed to enhance the effective-

ness of investigations. He emphasised the importance of setting up specialised units dealing with serious and organised crime, and the introduction of faster jurisdiction. As a result of political and expert discussions on cybercrime, the number of people in the cybercrime unit has been doubled. Institutional cooperation with the prosecution and the courts concerning the traffic of people has also been improved. The number of effective sentences has increased. These practical measures, and the results they achieved, have restored the confidence of Bulgaria's Euro-Atlantic partners. International cooperation is further strengthened through collaboration of Bulgarian officers with officers from partner states, and with Eurojust and Frontex. Regional cooperation is also improving, with the inclusion of Turkey and the west Balkan countries. Minister Tsvetanov pointed out that the report is yet another evidence of the partnership between the law-enforcement agencies and the non-governmental sector.



*Ms. Alenka Prvinsek, Senior Advisor, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna, at a round table on migration and trafficking of people at CSD*

The final version of the *Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2010-2011* was preceded by several expert round-tables where additional assessment methods were discussed.

On 9 February 2012, CSD held a round table discussion entitled **Migration Policies and Trafficking in Human Beings – Opportunities for Regional Cooperation**. The guest speaker was Ms. Alenka Prvinsek, Senior Advisor, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna, who made a presentation on ICMPD activities, structure and challenges with regard to migration. She outlined the importance of the Budapest process in identifying effective models to cope with changes in migration pressures. The role of Bulgaria as a chair of one of the working groups was emphasized with regard

to the establishment of good cooperation with the countries in the Black Sea region, with a focus on combating irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, strengthening border management and security of documents. The presentation stirred up a discussion related to Bulgaria's upcoming accession to the Schengen Agreement, the impact it would have on irregular migration, and the role of ICMPD in developing transnational referring mechanisms to contain and counter migration pressures.

On 20 February 2012, CSD held a round table on the **Use of Wiretaps in the Investigation of Organised Crime and Corruption**. Special guest was Mr. Peter Ainsworth, Senior Deputy Chief, Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice. The issues discussed were related to the problems



*Participants in the round table on the Use of Wiretaps in the Investigation of Organised Crime and Corruption, held at CSD on 20 February 2012*

that the Bulgarian judiciary faces in tackling issues of corruption and organised crime, especially when it comes to high-ranking officials. The role and jurisdiction of the newly established specialized court in Bulgaria was discussed.

Mr. Ainsworth shared experience on the use of wiretaps as well as the legal restriction of their use in conducting criminal investigations in USA. Mr. Ainsworth explained that the number of wiretaps is not monitored, as there exists a comprehensive system of protections aimed at reducing the abuse of wiretaps. These included:

- The requirement of a court sanction for each use of wiretap;
- The need for frequent (often weekly) updates of the court about the ongoing investigation, and presenting

evidence about the continuing need for the use of wiretaps;

- The strategy for minimization of wiretapping of personal information not relevant to the investigation (including technical means to do so);
- The mandatory notification of all individuals who have been wiretapped after the conclusion of the investigation.

In addition, he mentioned the issue of cost of wiretaps as another restriction on their extensive use. Mr. Ainsworth also emphasized the role of the media in preventing the discontinuation of high-profile corruption investigations.

On 21 February 2012, CSD held a round table entitled **Measuring Progress against Transnational Organised Crime**. Special guests were Ms. Jennifer



Rubin, Director, Communities, Safety and Justice Programme, RAND Europe and Ms. Emma Disley, researcher at the same program. In her presentation Ms. Rubin elaborated on the challenge of measuring transnational organised crime. The evaluation of such measures is essential when it comes to the impact that law enforcement interventions have with regard to countering transnational organised crime. Over the last years efforts have been directed towards the development of new strategies, policies and approaches to measure wider areas of criminal activities and illicit markets. She underlined that the research of larger data sets and development of clusters of indicators facilitate the building up of the full picture of transnational organised crime as well as the interaction among various illegal markets and the licit economy.

On 23 February 2012, CSD held a round table focusing on **the impact assessment process** employed by Matrix Insight, UK. The special guests at the event were Mr. Usman Khan, Managing Director and Ms. Gabriele Birnberg, Principal Consultant at Matrix Insight, UK. They familiarized the audience with the company organizational structure and its areas of consultancy. Mr. Khan and Ms. Birnberg presented methodological aspects and key findings of selected projects of Matrix Insight's Crime and Justice unit. The dedicated team has conducted a number of research studies, evaluations and impact assessments related to the European Commission's and its agencies' public and internal affairs policies in the field of fraud prevention, immigration and asylum, illegal drug trade, procedural law and victims' rights. One of the examples provided by



*Dr. Jennifer Rubin, Director, Communities, Safety and Justice Programme, RAND Europe, at a round table at CSD on Measuring Progress against Transnational Organised Crime*



*Ms. Gabriele Birnberg, Principal Consultant and Mr. Usman Khan, Managing Director, Matrix Insight, UK, at a round table on impact assessment at CSD*

the guests was a research study on the economic aspects of drug distribution in the UK. Matrix Insight collected and analyzed data on drug transaction ‘cycles’ based on interviews with incarcerated UK drug dealers.

Mr. Khan presented the phases involved in delivering a high quality impact assessment and its impact on developing policies at national and EU level. Ms. Birnberg touched upon the methods used in delivering an impact assessment, as well as the differences between impact assessment and evaluation.

On 3 July 2012, at the Red House Centre for Culture and Debate in Sofia, CSD presented the new book *Corruption and Organised Crime in Europe: Illegal Partnerships* (London: Routledge, 2012), edited by CSD’s Senior Analyst Dr. Philip Gounev and by Prof. Vincenzo Ruggiero of Middlesex University UK. The discussion panel was mediated by

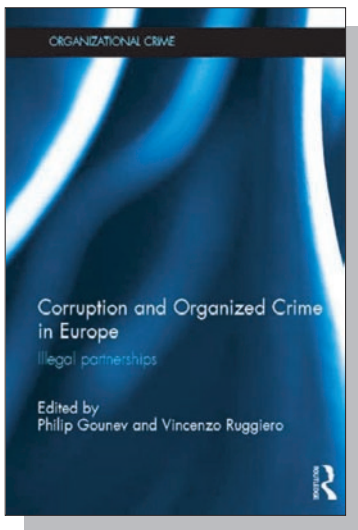
Mr. Rosen Bosev, investigative journalist at *Capital* weekly, and included Dr. Gounev, Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at CSD, and Mr. Pierre Salduci, Customs Attaché for the Balkans of the French Customs. The discussion was attended by representatives of the Chief Directorate for Combating Organised Crime, Internal Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, the Customs Agency, the Specialised Prosecution for Organised Crime, and the Supreme Cassation Prosecution.

Dr. Gounev and Mr. Bezlov outlined the main issues related to historic, cultural, economic and political factors that influence the way in which organised criminals use corruption across Europe. They emphasized the different conceptual discourses on corruption and organised crime, in particular how crimes of the elites, or white-collar crimes, are treated. Mr. Salduci explained how the political-criminal nexus in Marseille



From left to right: Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at CSD, Dr. Philip Gounev, Senior Analyst at CSD, Mr. Rosen Bosev, Investigative Journalist at Capital weekly, and Mr. Pierre Salduci, Customs Attaché for the Balkans of the French Customs

and Corsica functions, and the historical and cultural factors that support the corrupt environment in the region.



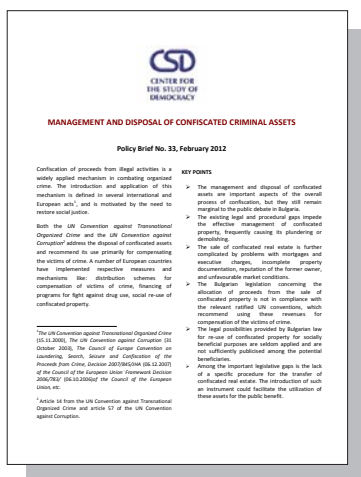
The book *Corruption and Organised Crime in Europe: Illegal Partnerships* (London: Routledge, 2012) builds upon the 2009 report of CSD *Examining the Links between Corruption and Organised Crime*. This is the first academic study that takes a Europe-wide approach to ana-

lyse the main historic, cultural, economic and political factors that influence the ways in which organised and white collar criminals use corruption. Combining empirical data and theoretical debates, the book focuses on three main areas of the relationship between corruption and organised crime: public bodies, the private sector and criminal markets. The second part of the book presents case studies, written by some of the foremost international experts on the subject matter, analysing corrupt exchange and criminal organisations, concentrating on several European countries – Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Russia, Spain and the UK.

## II. Forfeited criminal assets

**The Management and disposal of proceeds from illegal activities** is another CSD research effort focusing on the Italian anti-crime experience, following the CSD publication of the reader *Antimafia. The Italian Experience in the Fight against Organised Crime* (2011). An overview of the Bulgarian asset recovery system and a survey of public at-

titudes on this issue permitted to draw comparisons with Italian law enforcement system and the anti-Mafia legislation. Expert discussions produced several recommendations to amend the *Law on Forfeiture of Proceeds from Crime*, published in a Policy Brief.



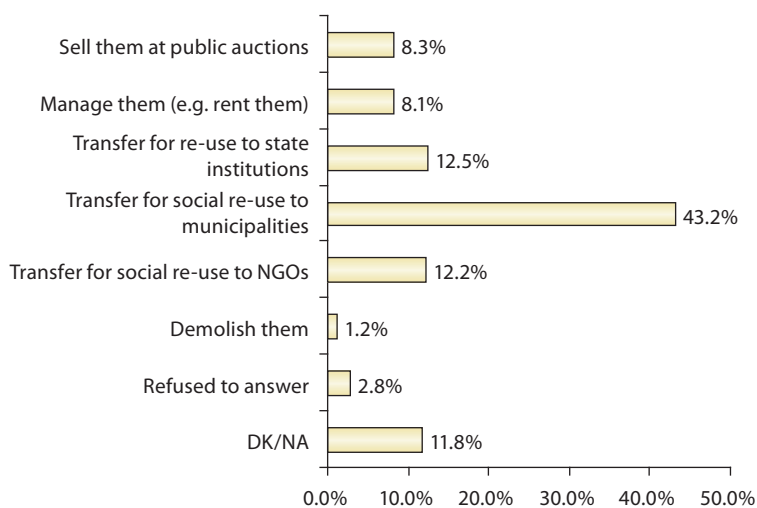
It stresses that confiscation of proceeds from illegal activities is a widely applied mechanism in combating organised crime: “The introduction and application of this mechanism is defined in several international and European acts, and is motivated by the need to restore social justice.”

A national representative survey of public attitudes towards the management and disposal of confiscated real estate property was carried out. It revealed that despite poor publicity of the possibility for re-use of confiscated real estate for social purposes, this was the option that most of the respondents supported:

The analysis of existing policies and procedures of disposal of forfeited assets outlined the following problems:

- legal and procedural gaps related to the safeguarding of the forfeited

**Figure 8. What should the state do with the confiscated real estate property?**



Source: CSD Survey, 2012.

- property;
- missing or incomplete property acts;
- existing mortgages on confiscated real estate;
- reputational issues related to previous owners;
- poor market environment.

A good part of these problems is related to the use of public tenders as the preferred forfeiture mechanism. Although it exists as an optional procedure, disposal of forfeited property for social purposes is seldom used.

The analysis stressed that the re-use of forfeited property, which is widespread in countries like Italy, is beginning to appeal to a number of municipalities, institutions and NGOs. However, a major drawback is the inability of most of Bulgarian municipalities and NGOs to afford the renovation and reconstruction works needed if they receive a forfeited property.

The main findings and recommendations from the study, including ideas to amend the existing law, were presented at a session of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee of the National Assembly dedicated to the discussion of future amendments of the *Forfeiture of Criminal Proceeds Act*.

In November the results of the study were also discussed at a specialized workshop in Zagreb, attended by representatives of the Legal Committee of the Croatian Parliament, the Ministry of Justice and the Agency for Managing of State Property, in addition to the Italian project partners.

Building upon its experience in the subject area of disposal of forfeited assets from illegal activities, in 2012 CSD started a new EU-wide, multi-partner study, **RECAST (The Re-Use of Confiscated Assets for Social Purposes: Towards**

**Common EU Standards)**, coordinated by the Palermo University and including FLARE Association (Italy), the Italian National Agency for the Administration of Assets Acquired from Criminal Activity, and the UNICRI Institute (Torino, Italy). The project will analyse the experience of the EU-27 Member States and will develop common European standards for the re-use of confiscated assets for social purposes.

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In January 2012 a draft law to amend the existing *Duty-Free Trade Law* was submitted to the National Assembly with the aim to reinstate the Duty-Free Trade at Bulgarian Land Borders (only at the EU external borders), which would enable the old operators to re-open their Duty-Free shops, closed back in 2008.

Since the early 1990s the duty-free shops along Bulgaria's land-border crossings have been used as a channel for illegal import of excise goods (cigarettes, alcohol and petrol). With the increase of excise and VAT taxes in the second-half of the 1990s, the risk of alcohol and cigarettes smuggling increased rapidly. The duty-free shops gradually evolved into one of the main channels for the smuggling of cigarettes, alcohol, and fuel. At that period, duty free operators existed without a legal regulation but only with a licensing permit from the Minister of Finance. The smuggling was tacitly tolerated from the highest political level.

Duty-free stores on the borders with Romania and Greece were finally shut only when Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007. Under further international, EU and US pressure, and due to the growing evidence of contraband activity, in 2008 the government closed the remaining duty-free shops and petrol stations selling tax-free fuel along Bulgaria's (which also became EU's) land borders with Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.



The continuous hikes of excise taxes in 2010, mandated by EU harmonization legislation, in combination with the effects of the economic crisis on domestic consumption, have led to a new rise of illegal sales and smuggling of cigarettes and fuel. This growing dependence of the budget on the excise goods trade and further looming risks motivated an initiative to formulate counter-arguments to the amendment, submitted to the Assembly.

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In 2012 CSD carried out its annual **National Crime Survey**. Due to methodological issues with the verification of data, however, it was decided to postpone the publication of its findings until after the 2013 survey provides a solid basis for identifying the trends in conventional crime.

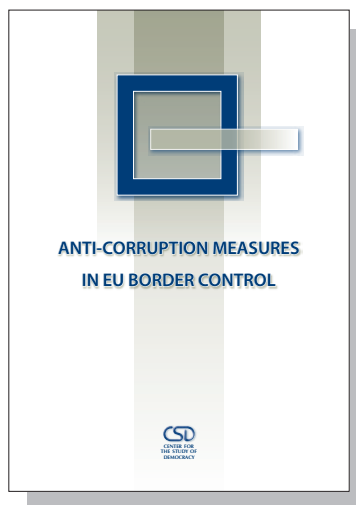
### III. Anti-corruption measures and policies at law-enforcement agencies

#### 1. Anti-corruption measures in EU border control

Exerting an effective control over both the EU internal and external borders ac-

quires an additional importance in the current financial and economic crisis and the ensuing security risks to Member States. Following the highly appreciated CSD research *Cooperation between Border Police and Customs Administrations Aiming at Better Management of the External Borders of the European Union* (2011), the Security Program completed in 2012 a new study, *Anti-corruption Measures in EU Border Control*, commissioned by Frontex (European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union).

The study provides academic and policy perspectives, as well as empirical data on corruption and anti-corruption measures observed in border guard institutions across the 27 Member States of the European Union. The report compares and analyses anti-corruption measures in EU Member States' border guard services, as well as the strategies and instruments used in corruption investigations of border guards.



The study concluded that countering corruption in the public security sector requires a concerted effort involving nu-

merous institutions and relevant legislation. Successful measures to counter corruption are based on a broad anti-corruption “infrastructure” that includes accountability measures for public servants, public procurement laws and procedures, penal policies, anti-money-laundering legislation, and investigation of other institutions that may be exerting a corrupting pressure over police officers (e.g. politicians or judiciary).

While many MS across the EU have policies, institutions, and practices to combat corruption in their border guard services, there are very wide differences across the Union in the specific forms these take. Perceptions of the extent and seriousness of the problem of corruption also vary considerably across Europe. Moreover, the pressures and causes of corruption also diverge widely across the EU.

With the expansion of the Schengen area, most EU MS are dependent to some extent on the controls carried out by the border guard services of other MS. Thus, there is an obvious need for harmonization of the perception of risks associated with corrupt practices and the best response to these risks.

To this end, the EC, Frontex and MS should at a minimum agree to place the issue of corruption in the guarding of the external borders of the European Union on the political and institutional agenda. Corruption should be factored in the assessments of risk on a regular basis. An ongoing dialogue should focus on the basic common principles to be applied when addressing the risk of corruption in border guard services across the EU. This would allow the adoption and adaptation to local conditions of anti-corruption measures that ensure a harmonized understanding of, and fight against, what is a serious and widespread problem.

## **2. Enhancing Police Internal Affairs Departments in EU Member States (ENPIAD)**

Countering corruption among police officers is a priority not only for the European Union but also for a number of international organizations, including UNDC, OECD and the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). These institutions have developed their own manuals for assessing police integrity and undertake periodically assessments of the impact of anti-corruption measures and good institutional practices in preventing and countering police corruption.

Police corruption can take various forms: petty bribes, bureaucratic corruption, selling internal information to criminals, undermining investigations, political corruption, etc. All these corruption practices should be countered through the use of preventive and proactive anti-corruption measures. Since 2004 CSD works in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, the European Commission, Frontex and leading academic institutions on the task of assessing the causes and risks stemming from police corruption and in designing anti-corruption measures.

In 2012 CSD started a joint initiative “Enhancing Police Internal Affairs Departments in EU Member States (ENPIAD)”, together with the General Anti-Corruption Directorate of the Romanian Ministry of the Administration and the Interior, the Belgian Federal Police, the General Inspectorate of the Belgian Police, and the UK Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

The aim of the initiative is to establish close relations between the internal affairs departments of police forces in Bulgaria, Romania, the UK and Belgium, and to study their best practices in coun-

tering police corruption and developing analytical anti-corruption tools. In 2012, several workshops were organized in London, Brussels and Vienna. Their aim was to exchange experience and good practices, in addition to designing a program and curricula for the educational courses for Bulgarian and Romanian police officers due to take place in 2013.

### 3. Regional seminar on the EU Anti-corruption Report

During the past several years the EC recognised the negative impact of the economic crisis in Europe on the stability of the public sector. Every year, EU Member States suffer significant losses due to corruption.

As a part of the overall efforts to address this problem, in mid 2013 the EC will publish its first *EU Anticorruption Report*. The report is based on the June 2011 decision of the EC for the introduction of

a mechanism for regular assessment of anti-corruption in the Member States.

DG Home, supported by CSD, organised on 11 December, 2012, in Sofia a regional informational seminar, to share with EU MS the ongoing work of the Commission on the anti-corruption report and to discuss with representatives of government institution and civil society their specific experience with countering corruption, including best practices and negative lessons learnt from national anti-corruption efforts.

Anti-corruption experts from 14 EU MS took part in the seminar, representing the public administration, academic community, civil society, business and media.

The seminar was opened by Ms. Ms. Maria Åsenius, Head of Cabinet Commissioner Cecilia Malstrom, Dr. Ognian Shentov, Chairman of CSD, and



*At the seminar on EU Anti-corruption Report, from left to right: Ms. Maria Åsenius, Head of Cabinet Commissioner Cecilia Malstrom, Dr. Ognian Shentov, Chairman of CSD, Mr. Tsvetan Tsvetanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Jakub Boratynski, Head of Unit "Fight against Organised Crime" at DG Home Affairs*



Mr. Tsvetan Tsvetanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

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On 3 October 2012 the Center for the Study of Democracy hosted for a second time a delegation from the **China Center for Contemporary World Studies** (CCCWS). The delegation was headed by Professor Jin Xin, CCCWS Deputy Director accompanied by Mr. Gao Lianjia, Ms. Wang Xiaoying and Mr. Sun Binghui, Research Fellows at the CCCWS and Mr. Zhou Rongshui, Third Secretary at the Chinese Embassy in Bulgaria. The visit was initiated on the recommendation of Professor Yu Hongjun, President of CCWCS, who was leading the first delegation visiting Bulgaria in May 2011.

On 17 December 2012 a delegation from the **China Foundation for Peace and Development** (CFPD) headed by Mr. Mao Rubai, Specially Invited Adviser of CFPD and Chairman of Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation Committee of the 10th National People's Congress visited the Center for the Study of Democracy. The delegation also included Mr. Liu Zhongxiang, Specially Invited Director of CFPD, Mr. Ji Ping, Deputy Secretary-General of CFPD,

Ms. Qi Wei, Senior Program Manager, Mr. Wang Hao, Program Manager and Ms. Fei Ting, Secretary to H.E. Mr. Mao Rubai. The Embassy of China in Sofia was represented by Mr. Jia Li, Deputy Head of Mission and Counselor, and Ms. Gu Fang, First Secretary of the Embassy.

Mr. Mao Rubai presented the activities of the Chinese Foundation for Peace and Development. He stressed on the fact that although the organization is relatively young, it has a high professional capacity and significant experience in the field of international relations. The mission and purpose of CFPD is striving for world peace and prosperity that CFPD aspires to through its increasing network of partners and implementation of numerous charity projects around the world in the sphere of education, better health care and many others.

Specific thematic areas and formats for potential collaboration between the two organizations were discussed. Such a format could be the Annual Peace and Development Forum of CFPD which gathers together non-governmental organizations from all over the world.