

European Program

In 2007, CSD's European program worked most extensively in the area of the new security threats in the context of Bulgaria's membership in the European Union. The program invested significant efforts in institutionalizing public-private partnership in crime prevention and published a series of expert analyses relating to key aspects of justice and home affairs policy.

2007 Highlights

- **Crime prevention** is an area where CSD has been promoting common approaches by government institutions and civil society. CSD was the main resource institution for the operation of the National Crime Prevention Commission by development of analyses of the various aspects of criminality.
- **Analysis of crime trends** was pioneered by CSD in the beginning of the decade and was institutionalized through the **National Crime Surveys (NCS)** carried out by CSD, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, on an annual basis. The NCS is now the authoritative source of data and analysis of the dynamics of conventional crime in Bulgaria.
- CSD also contributed to the analysis and policy recommendations of **stop-and-search policies** by the Bulgarian police, focusing on the practices of disproportionate stops of members of the Roma ethnic minority. CSD's study was part of a Europe-wide initiative aimed to map discriminatory police practices across Europe.
- In the field of **policies against organized crime**, CSD launched a major analysis of the main black markets. The Center's analysis summarized the analyses carried out by the Center for the Study of Democracy throughout the last decade which have focused on specific aspects of organized crime in Bulgaria (contraband, the drug market, tax fraud, human trafficking, arms proliferation, etc.), the systemic spread of corruption, and the linkages between the two.

I. Promoting dialogue and strengthening capacity

In late 2005, the Center contributed to the establishment of a National Crime Prevention Commission. The Commission focuses on the coordination of existing and the development of new crime prevention initiatives, as well as on awareness-raising for crime prevention with the aim to reduce the impact of crime on society and citizen safety. CSD provides essential input through preparing of analyses of the various aspects of criminality, which in 2007 were particularly devoted to the study of current crime trends. In the course of the year the Commission held two public meetings where the Center provided the analytical background on which particular policies should be built through the specific reports and presentations dedicated to the meetings' focus.

On **25 June 2007** the Center for the Study of Democracy in cooperation with the National Crime Prevention Commission held a public meeting of the Commission dedicated to the spread

of narcotic drugs in Bulgaria. The Minister of Interior Mr. Rumen Petkov, who chairs the Commission, pointed out that public-private partnership is a key element in implementing programs for the prevention of drug proliferation.

Chief Commissioner Valentin Pertov, Director of the National Police Service, presented key police data on the effects of anti-drug criminal policy, with a focus on the recent dismantling of organized drug distribution groups operating in Bulgaria.

Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at the Center, presented the National Crime Survey (NCS; see more detail in the Vitosha Research section of this report) findings about the trends on the Bulgarian drug market over the last five years (2002–2007). He compared these trends with data from the first such nationally representative survey on drugs in Bulgaria (December 2002–January 2003), as well as several newer victimization surveys (from 2005, 2006 and 2007). Mr. Bezlov also dwelt on the underlying factors behind the shrinking heroin market, e.g. the decreasing



From left: Chief Commissioner Valentin Petrov, Interior Minister Rumen Petkov, Ognian Shentov, CSD Chairman, Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst, CSD

number of street dealers, the poorer quality of recent supplies, the enrollment of a growing number of addicts in methadone programs after 2005, and the greater popularity of Substitol, MST and other treatments.

The new trends announced were a growth in soft drugs use between 2004 and 2006, in amphetamine use particularly in the largest cities such as Sofia and Burgas, and in cocaine use.

The second meeting of the National Crime Prevention Commission was held on **28 September 2007**.

The meeting's key speaker was again Tihomir Bezlov who presented the Bulgarian and international crime prevention practices in a comparative perspective. He focused on the approaches to prevent crime among school-age youths and on partnership between local police forces and municipal authorities.

Crime prevention is also related to the European Program's efforts to advocate the **adoption of European standards in police stop and search activities**. The Center for the Study of Democracy in cooperation with the Open Society Justice Initiative launched an project which aims to improve police-minority relations through increasing the effectiveness and accountability of police powers to conduct identity checks and searches in Bulgaria. In 2007, the European Program, in cooperation with the Security Police Department of the Crime Counteraction, Public Order Maintenance and Prevention Directorate, established a monitoring system that will enhance police management and accountability of stops. In addition, a police stop and search guidance is elaborated. The project will generate replicable models of good practice that can be disseminated regionally.

Project activities are implemented in coordination with partners from the Metropolitan Police Service and the Leicestershire Constabulary in the UK, as well as from Hungary and Spain. The final results are being analyzed and will be presented in comparative perspective at a European regional seminar with existing regional policing networks.

Energy security is another area of recurring CSD interest. The Center's round table discussion on "Energy Security: Diversification and Source Dependence" took place on December 7, 2007. Participants debated the possibilities for the Euro-Atlantic community to supply economically feasible energy sources, specifically of oil and gas, and thus achieve the highest possible market-based independence from particular sources. These issues are especially relevant in Southeast Europe, including Bulgaria, as the area is both a consumer and a potential transit route for oil and gas ducts.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, defined energy security through several different perspectives: of consumers, of energy producers, and as it relates to environmental issues. He stated that US energy policy takes into account the interests of both energy producers and energy consumers. He focused on the particular care with which priorities for large-scale energy projects should be selected, as oil and gas pipelines take eight to ten years to construct and are very expensive. Failure in picking the really important and sustainable projects could lead to serious financial losses.

II. Analysis and policy recommendations

In December 2007 The Center published one of the farthest-reaching studies of organized crime in Bulgaria. Organized Crime in Bulgaria: Markets and Trends presents the latest trends and manifestations (or “market niches”) of syndicate crime and its particularly damaging effects, and offers a historical review of the facts and available expertise in the area to draw conclusions about the origin, characteristics and developmental features of organized criminality in Bulgaria.

The report analyzes the origin and evolution of the organized crime during the transition and offers an overview of the basic criminal markets—contraband, human trafficking and prostitution, the drug market, car theft, and the business with antiquities. The report presents an authentic picture of organized crime in Bulgaria by identifying its constituent features and major trends.

For this purpose information from all available sources has been used and analyzed through several, complementary methods. Collecting empirical data about clandestine and hidden markets is a hard task, which can sometimes put the researchers at risk. The publication also enhances public-private partnership in expert knowledge exchange as a main research approach favored by the Center for the Study of Democracy.

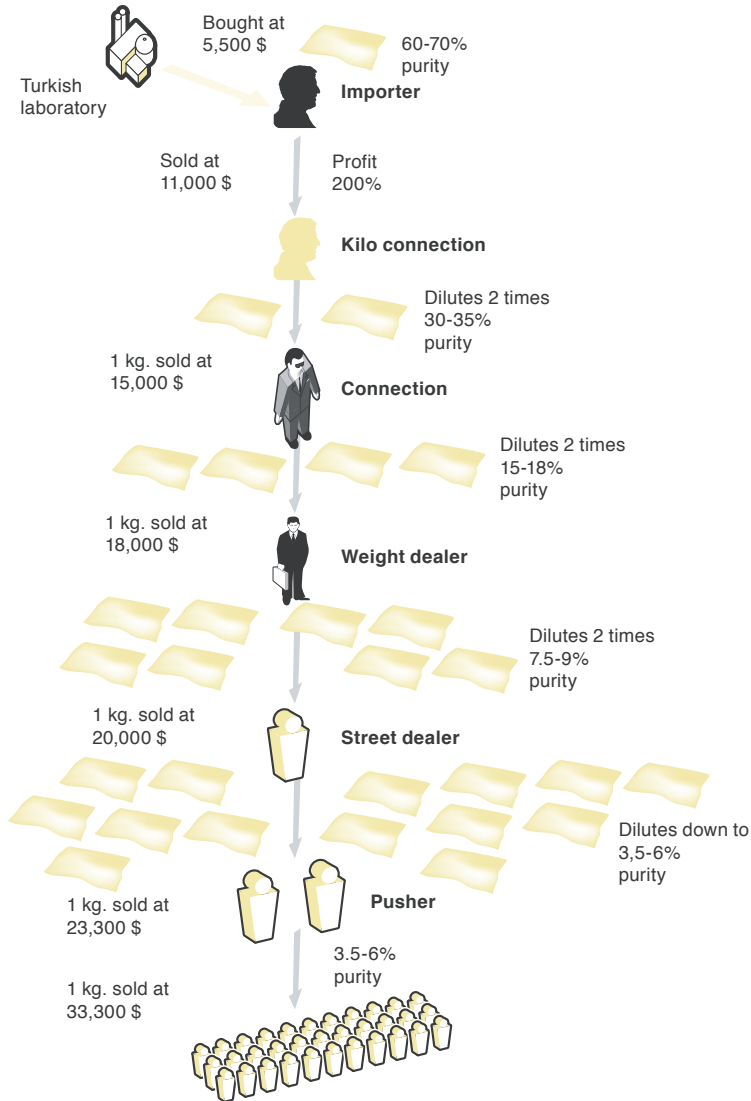
The report was launched on December 12, 2007 at a round table “Organized Crime in Bulgaria: Markets and Trends”.

The event was opened by CSD Chairman Dr. Ognian Shentov. He highlighted the need for public-private partnerships in tackling organized crime. Dr. Shentov outlined the process and methodology of the development of the report and the significance of the analysis for the elaboration of effective anti-crime policies.



From left: Matthew Bryza, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Ambassador Boyko Noev, CSD European Program Director, US Ambassador John Beyrle

Figure 10. The Way of Heroin



The German Ambassador to Bulgaria Michael Geier pointed out that vote buying during the recent local elections was a sign of the growing power of shadowy local business groups. "The

report presented by the Center for the Study of Democracy - with financial support by the European Union - proves that Bulgaria has not made its homework as far as the fight against organized



CSD Chairman Dr. Shentov at the opening of the round table

crime and high level corruption is concerned", he said. This has been clearly stated by the German President in August, when he stated that the German-Bulgarian relations are close, full of trust and devoid of problems, adding, however, that there is much to be done in Bulgaria, much to be done in Germany.

Mr. Tihomir Bezlov, Senior Analyst at the Center for the Study of Democracy and one of the authors of the report dwelt on the various aspects and trends in Bulgarian organized crime. He highlighted the differences and similarities between the Bulgarian and Russian models of organized crime. In describing the modes of adaptations of organized crime to a changing institutional and regulatory environment Mr. Bezlov focused on the use of gray

market techniques and the transition from hierarchies to networks. Further, Mr. Bezlov outlined the conclusions in the analysis of the drug market, car theft and prostitution and human trafficking.

Ambassador Tove Skarstein from the Royal Norwegian Embassy underlined that prostitution and human trafficking are an important issue in the Norwegian-Bulgarian relations. Norway is the largest sex market in Northern Europe and a preferred destination for trafficking of women for sexual purposes. Norway regards the issue not only as a crime, but as a severe violation of human rights. As few victims seek help, however, it is difficult to distinguish the extent to which trafficking is influenced by social factors from the level of involvement of organized crime. It is certain, though, that exporting women for prostitution



From left: US Ambassador John Beyrle, Ambassador Tove Skarstein, Minister of Interior Rumen Petkov German Ambassador Michael Geier, Ambassador of Finland Kauko Jamsen (file 20071212-20dO 002)

relies on highly professional networks of organized crime. The UN Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking, place a clear responsibility on the countries of origin to alleviate the root causes for trafficking, but countries of destination also have a clear responsibility to curb the demand.

The Ambassador of Finland Kauko Jamsen, pointed to the similar position of Finland and Bulgaria at EU's outer borders and underlined the need to strengthen Union-level decision making in criminal justice. He presented the Finnish anti-organized crime approach, focusing on its key good practices. One aspect is target selection, implemented jointly by police, customs administration and the border guards and involving regular exchanges with the prosecution offices which effectively undermines the operation of criminal groups. Another aspect is that inter-institutional cooperation networks are backed by a well-developed computerized monitoring system that greatly helps identify

emerging crime groups. Finally, the use of special investigation means for organized crime prosecution is clearly regulated in Finnish law.

In his address, the US Ambassador John Beyrle focused on the importance of efforts to shed light on the shady businesses of organized crime. Organized crime in Bulgaria is not just a problem for Bulgarians - it's also a problem for America and the EU and that's why "you see so many Embassies represented here." The US its own battle against organized crime in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s involving not just police and courts, but members of Congress, journalists, trade union leaders, and many courageous individuals who stood up against it. Today the spotlight is on the problem in Bulgaria: the apparent impunity of organized crime figures; the connections between organized crime and politics; and the inability of existing laws to be enforced; and special benefits for the gray economy.

Bulgarian Minister of Interior Rumen Petkov commended the consistent and methodical efforts of the Center in analyzing a sensitive area such as criminal markets. He said the report confirmed the need for public-private partnership in such endeavors, not least in order to point the weaknesses of government in tackling organized criminality.

The unprecedented media coverage of the event – all major Bulgarian media as well as reputable international services such as Reuters covered the presentation and the report – indicated that CSD is still the authoritative institution as regards the analysis of organized crime in Bulgaria.