
Introduction

In 2019, on the eve of its 30th anniversary, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) continued to devote its efforts on the key cross-cutting issues it covers in its policy advocacy for piloting social innovation and institutional reforms:

- crime and justice, victims of crime, integration and social inclusion, and fundamental rights and ethics;
- energy governance, decentralisation and transition to a low-carbon future; assessing and tackling foreign economic and media influence; countering corruption and state capture; tackling the hidden economy and undeclared work; competitiveness and the knowledge economy;
- integration of migrants; social inclusion of vulnerable groups; prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism and group-focused enmity;
- organised crime threats assessment; countering radicalisation and terrorism; conventional crime and policing; evaluation of EU home affairs policies and programs.

Countering state capture risks in Europe, of course, needs to involve much more concerted and coherent efforts by civil society to both monitor these risks and to design practical steps, measures and programs. Only a similar activist civil society stand could help effectively counter the phenomenon and mitigate the instability in Europe and worldwide.

This year's think-and-action focus of CSD also fell on a number of major challenges related to energy security and the transition to a low carbon economy. CSD continued to build upon its previous work on decentralisation and democratisation of the Bulgarian energy sector, while at the same time providing solutions for the implementation of decarbonisation policies in the power sector and improving the Bulgarian National Energy and Climate Plan.

In view of the rising climate activism worldwide and the emerging youth movements at a global scale, including the recently launched European Green New Deal illustrating EU's ambition to become the first carbon-neutral continent in the world by 2050, CSD will reflect this paradigm shift and expand the thematic scope of its work by engaging into dialogues on international climate cooperation, climate justice, climate financing and the circular economy.



Sofia, December 2019

Dr. Ognian Shentov
Chairman