
SOCIOLOGICAL PROGRAM

In 2021, the Sociological Program focused its work on the following areas:

- **Migrant integration and prediction of migration flows.** As a response to current challenges related to managing migration flows in the European Union, the Sociological Program has been involved in activities to develop, test, and promote an ICT-enabled tool to map models of migration.
- **Social inclusion of vulnerable groups.** CSD continued to work towards the improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups in Bulgaria through its analyses on current trends of Roma exclusion in the Bulgarian public domain, particularly as they pertain to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, CSD designed a monitoring methodology of domestic violence policies and applied the methodology in a national study about domestic violence in Bulgaria.
- **Governance of religious diversity and preventing religiously-motivated radicalisation.** CSD continued to work on the topic of governance of religious diversity and the promotion of resilience to violent religious radicalisation. It contributed to the Routledge Handbook on the Governance of Religious Diversity. In 2021, CSD expanded its work on the application of a comprehensive indicators toolkit measuring levels of secularism, rights of religious minorities, levels and factors of violent radicalisation, and comprehensiveness of measures against violent radicalisation.
- **Energy citizenship and energy democracy.** CSD took part in an important contribution to a comprehensive interdisciplinary review of the existing academic and professional knowledge on energy citizenship and energy democracy. This review enhances knowledge on the topic and advocates for a clean energy transition on the continent.

I. Managing migration flows

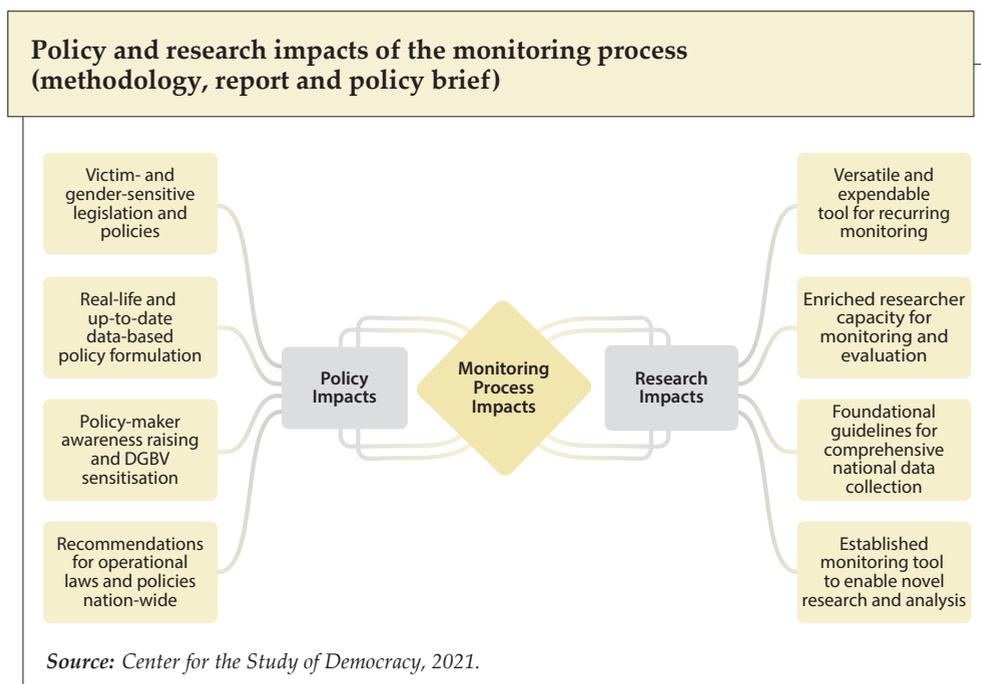
CSD continues its participation in an international initiative to develop, test, and promote an ICT-enabled tool to map models of migration. The interactive tool is expected to assist first responders, second-line practitioners, NGOs and municipalities in devising improved strategies for accommodating and integrating migrants and ensuring better planning of their financial and human resources. For this purpose, CSD has been coordinating the work of international policy experts in migration and integration to align the tool's functionalities with the specific needs and expectations of policy-makers. During the year, CSD took part in multiple virtual events and participated in discussions with important EU stakeholders on the need to find the balance between guaranteeing the security of EU borders and operating within an ethical and human rights compliant policy framework.

II. Social inclusion of vulnerable groups

As the EU public narratives related to the COVID-19 pandemic began to steadily shift from crisis management to recovery strategies, the social and media environment in Bulgaria continued to overlook the needs and grievances of vulnerable minority groups. Fake news, disinformation and misrepresentation shaped the hostile relationship between the Roma community and Bulgarian traditional and social media. In an effort to share [research findings](#) on the matter accumulated since the beginning of the pandemic, CSD took part in the 2021 edition of Goethe Institut's Media Incubator. The media incubator targeted emerging media professionals and served as a platform for CSD to report results from its research on current trends of Roma exclusion in the Bulgarian public domain. The event also provided CSD with an opportunity to share insights about its critical analysis



Sociological Program Analyst Rosalina Todorova presenting the findings from CSD's study on media and online narratives, fake news and disinformation trends in relation to Roma in Bulgaria.

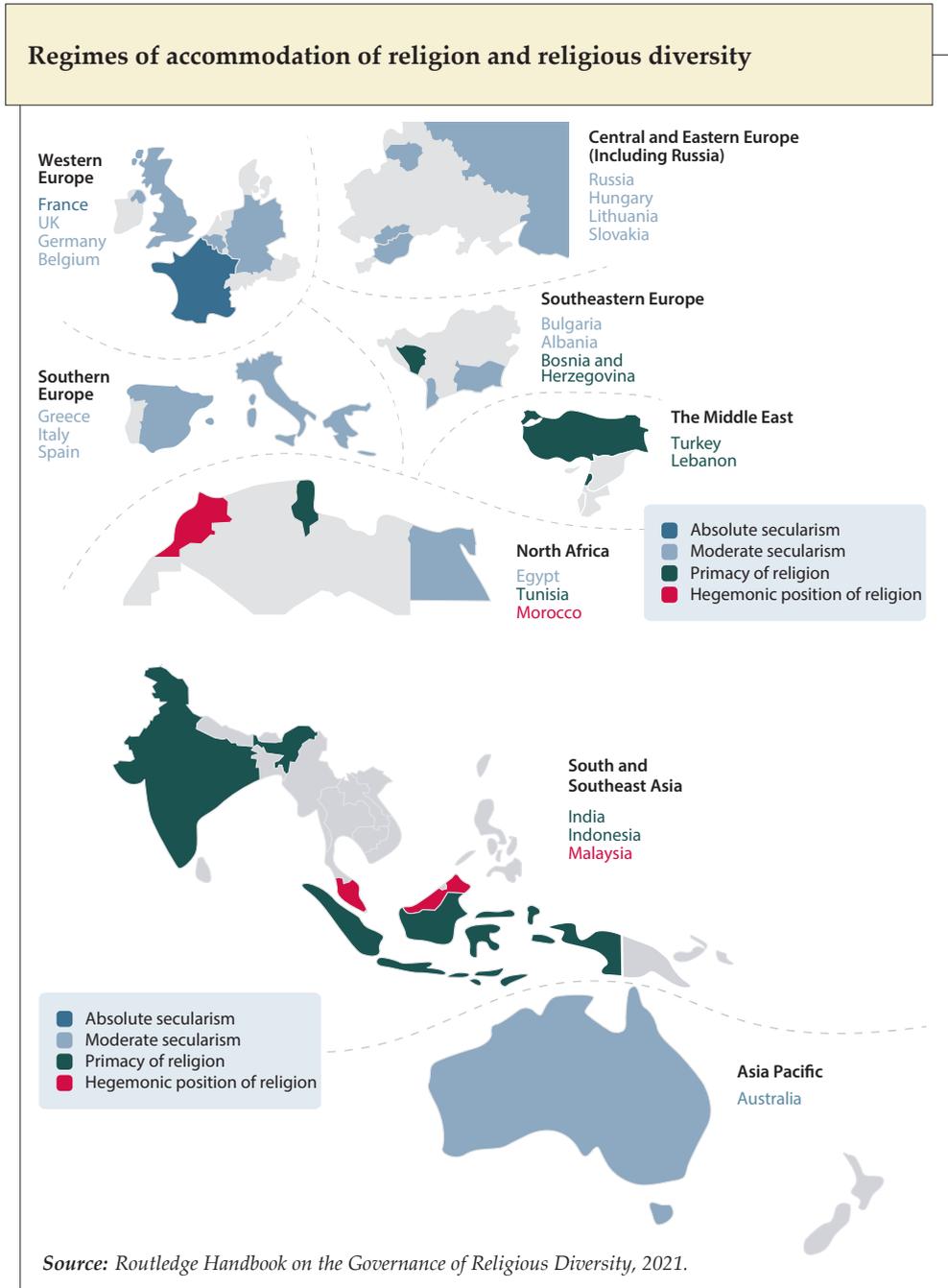


on possible prevention measures and the need for the establishment of a more representative and inclusionary media environment for vulnerable groups.

In 2021, CSD pioneered the implementation of victim-sensitive approaches to research and analysis in the realm of domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV) through the creation of a *Methodology for Monitoring Policy and Institutional Practice in Relation to Domestic and Gender-Based Violence in Bulgaria*. The methodology aims to uncover the objective situation (i.e. the legal, policy and institutional framework), perceptions and dispositions of key stakeholders, available quantitative data on violence against women, the good practices and the areas for improvement in a specific node of measures (e.g. prevention, provision of support and protection, international cooperation, etc.). This tool serves as the blueprint for the first national-level monitoring of the legal, policy and institutional framework related to DGBV.

III. Governance of religious diversity and preventing religiously-motivated radicalisation leading to terrorism and group-focused enmity

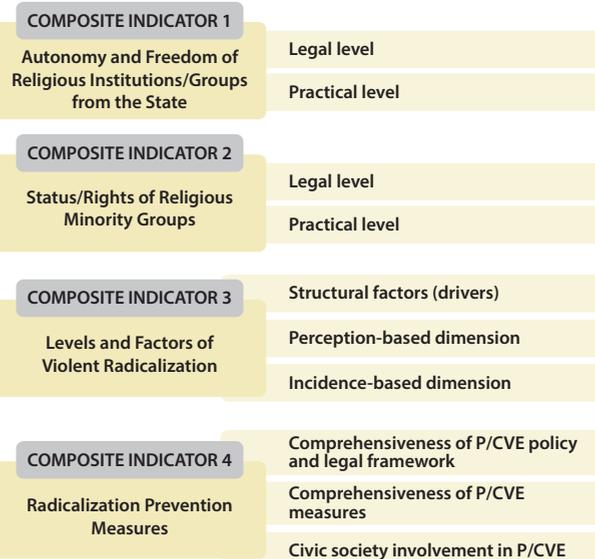
In 2021, CSD continued to develop analyses and policy relevant work related to the governance of religion and religious diversity. CSD experts contributed to the publication of the *Routledge Handbook on the Governance of Religious Diversity*, which contains analyses on 23 countries around the world, by developing analyses about Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria. The handbook outlines a typology of regimes of accommodation of religion and religious diversity according to geographical macro-regions, where moderate secular state regimes are characterised by mutual autonomy between a state and religious institutions rather than full one-sided control by the state over religion or complete separation between the state and religious institutions (absolute secularism).



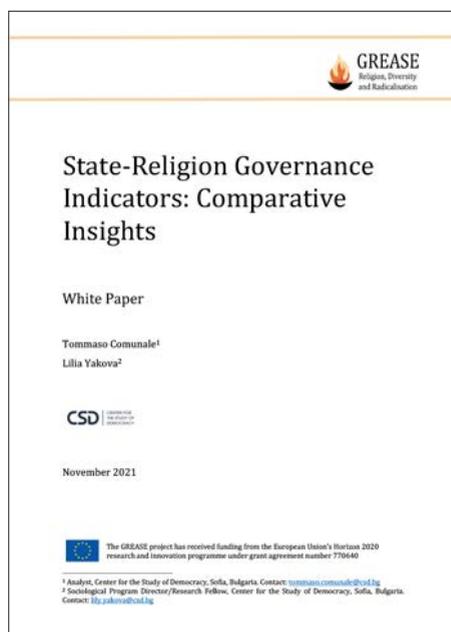
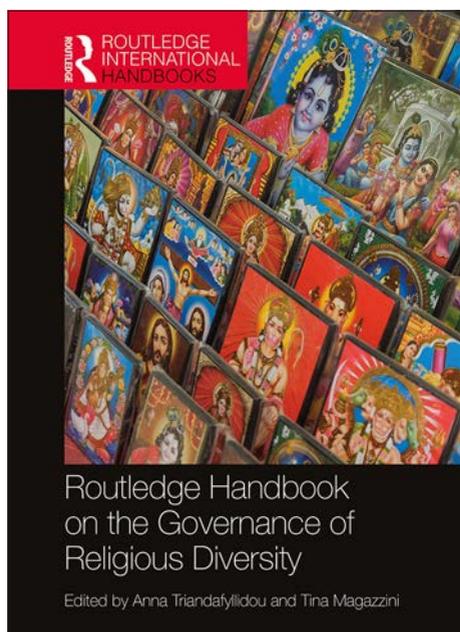
In June 2021, CSD presented findings from the Handbook as well as results from the application of the *State-Religion Governance Indicators Toolkit* it devel-

oped in 2020 during a regional dialogue workshop entitled "Governance of Religion and Violent Radicalisation in Eastern Europe". The workshop gathered

State–religion governance indicators and their level



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy, 2021.



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academic experts and practitioners from Eastern Europe who discussed ways to tackle state mismanagement of religious diversity which leads to violent (religious) radicalisation and extremism in the post-Communist countries of Eastern Europe.

In 2021, CSD developed further analyses on the application of the State-Religion Governance Indicators Toolkit and compared their application to already existing indices on state-religion relations, radicalisation factors and P/CVE prevention. The results were published in a report titled *State-Religion Governance Indicators: Comparative Insights*.

IV. Energy citizenship and energy democracy

A critical aspect of implementing a just transition to sustainable energy systems is the involvement of citizens in energy-related processes (energy citizenship), including in decision-making on

issues related to energy management and the deployment of renewable energy technologies (energy democracy).

In 2021, CSD contributed to a comprehensive interdisciplinary review of the existing academic and professional knowledge on energy citizenship and energy democracy. The analysis shows that energy citizenship is a complex phenomenon with many factors affecting its dynamics (including psychological, community, societal, national and transnational factors).

Furthermore, CSD led the establishment of an international Policy Advisory Group to promote dialogue among stakeholders engaged in the energy transition and bridge the gap between policy-making and cutting-edge research in the areas of energy citizenship and energy democracy. The Center coordinates the Policy Advisory Group's activities related to the provision of guidance and feedback on the emerging concept of energy citizenship.