

Institutional Development

CSD is registered as a public benefit organization with the Central Registry of NGOs at the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice. Public benefit organizations are obliged by law to conform to a number of additional financial reporting rules and to submit annual activity reports.

In 2011, CSD employed a staff of thirty-seven of whom thirty-one in professional and management positions, including part-time consultants, and six employees in administrative positions.

Accountability and transparency are guiding principles in the operation of the Center for the Study of Democracy. They are intrinsic to CSD activity and are related to the critical analysis of social processes and trends in Bulgaria and in the EU. These principles are implemented by means of:

- publishing annual audit reports since 1992;
- auditing individual projects;
- publishing CSD annual reports since 1994;
- providing regularly information about the activities of CSD on its website;
- providing information to the mass media about on-going projects and their results;
- publishing a wide range of analyses and reports.

The application of good management practices has been critical to the successful work of CSD. In 2011, the Center continued its efforts to adapt its work to the dynamic donor environment and the new EU financial instruments available for the period 2007 – 2013: the

7th Framework Program, the European Social Fund, the financial instruments in the area of justice and home affairs. Some of CSD activities were funded through the operational programs administered by the Bulgarian government, as well as the Kingdom of Norway, the World Bank and the Open Society Institute. Apart from the awarded grants, CSD diversifies its ways of funding by taking part in tender bids announced by the European Commission (through its consulting arm Project One EOOD).

In 2011, CSD proved its reputation as a reliable partner and coordinator of projects encompassing research not only in Bulgaria but in all EU Member States. In partnership with leading European NGOs and academic institutions, CSD took part in the European debate on the assessment and development of policies related to countering organised and conventional crime, the grey economy, corruption, as well as policies with regard to third country nationals and security issues concerning the external borders of the EU.

Consulting arms of CSD: Vitosha Research and Project One

Vitosha Research EOOD and Project One EOOD are wholly owned by CSD and form the CSD Group. Vitosha Research EOOD had started as one of the programs of CSD dealing with sociological issues and in 2000 was set up as a separate commercial company aiming to support the long term financial sustainability of CSD through involvement in marketing research. The General Manager of the company is the Director of Research of CSD.

Project One EOOD was founded after consultations with the auditing company KPMG in order to enable CSD's participation in tenders and consultancy projects on the territory of Bulgaria and the EU. Project One is also in charge of the management of CSD investment activities. The Manager of Project One EOOD is the Executive Director of CSD. The three organizations use interchangeably their facilities, human and financial resources in order to better achieve their goals, while observing distinct separation of CSD Group's commercial and non-commercial activities.

In 2011, Vitosha Research carried out twenty social, economic, media and marketing research projects. More than twenty thousand face-to-face, telephone and online interviews were conducted with citizens, profit and non-profit organizations.

Until August 2011 Vitosha Research was the Bulgarian partner in the Flash Eurobarometer – a large-scale research project of the European Commission involving regular surveys on topical issues among the citizens of thirty-four countries, including some EU member states. In 2011, Vitosha Research conducted twelve Flash Eurobarometer surveys.

Along with marketing research, in 2011 the agency carried out surveys in the

social and economic areas commissioned by Bulgarian and international institutions:

- Gallup Hungary (World Poll Survey – Bulgaria 2011)
- New York University (Experimental Survey on Partisanship in Bulgaria)
- FRA through Gallup Europe (Discrimination and Victimization in the EU Member States – Experiences and Attitudes of Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities)
- Romanian Institute for Economic and Social Research and Polls – IRECSO S.R.L. (Socio-economic study to be carried out in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area between 2009 – 2015)
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Foods (Broadband Penetration and Usage in Rural Areas – Survey)
- The State Agency for Child Protection (Assessment of the Implementation of the National Child Strategy)

Project One EOOD continued its efforts to have an office building constructed at 3, Zhendov Str., a site adjacent to the building currently occupied by CSD. The office building is designed in full compliance with the standards of the Bulgarian Green Building Council. Through this project CSD will contribute to the implementation of best energy saving practices.